

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



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Comments on bongo bongo land defended

A WEST Midland UKIP spokesman defended politician Godfrey Bloom, who has been rebuked over his 'bongo bongo land' speech – claiming there were no complaints from his audience in Wall Heath.

Bill Etheridge, chairman of the party's Dudley and Halesowen branch, said that, although he would not have used Mr Bloom's language himself, he did not believe his comments were racist.

MEP Mr Bloom, a UKIP MEP, was filmed at a meeting of supporters at the Kingfisher Country Club, on the A449 at Wall Heath, last month saying those who received aid in 'bongo bongo land' spent the money on 'Ray-Ban sunglasses, apartments in Paris, Ferraris and all the rest of it'.

National UKIP chairman Steve Crowther said: "We are asking Godfrey not to use this phrase again as it might be considered disparaging by members from other countries."

The comments were made to an audience of about 60 people – including some from Asian and Afro Caribbean backgrounds – at the event, hosted by Dudley and Halesowen branch.

Mr Etheridge, aged 43, said today: "The speech was well-received and, although there were people of different ethnicities in the room, nobody complained."

● See video at www.expressandstar.com

Kick-off to help causes

COUNCILLORS and council staff will battle it out in a football tournament in Dudley in aid of charity.

Elected members will take on council officers during a six-a-side tournament at Redhill School in Stourbridge on August 15.

The players will compete on behalf of Team DB, which is Dudley Council's sports team that raises funds for charity throughout the year.

END OF ROAD FOR BUS LANES LOOMS

BUS lanes in Halesowen town centre could be scrapped to help ease congestion after it emerged the council was launching a review.

It follows calls from ward councillors and residents to axe the lanes in Bromsgrove Road and Queensway. They claim the lanes cause traffic queues to build up around the town centre causing delays particularly at peak times of the day such as morning rush hour.

Talks are now under way between council bosses, Centro and bus operators to decide whether the lanes are required.

Members of Halesowen Area Committee had voted in favour of scrapping the lanes including the one in Bromsgrove Road between Vine Lane and the Mucklow Hill island at meeting last year.

They were first installed ahead of work starting on the town's new bus station.

Remained

Halesowen South ward councillor David Vickers said they were supposed to be a temporary measure until it opened in 2008 but they have remained in place.

He said: "They really do need to be scrapped because they are causing havoc in the town."

"We have been campaigning as councillors to get them removed for some time."

"It's a ridiculous situation because it causes the town to come to a standstill at 8am in the morning."

"People can be stuck going

by Heather Large

nowhere as they try to get out of the town for 15 minutes or more because of the queues.

"Then you get four buses coming down the bus lane and cutting into traffic making it even more difficult for the traffic to move."

"The lanes no longer serve a purpose and were really only meant to be there temporarily but now we can't get rid of them."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for transportation, said talks had begun to resolve the issues.

"We are continuing to hold discussions with Centro and the bus operators about the future of the bus lanes in Halesowen."

"These discussions are very complex to ensure the right decision is made, and will include looking at how useful and effective they are in aiding public transport," he added.

Revamp for shopping centre

A SHOPPING centre in Stourbridge will be given a facelift including a new logo, revamped signs and refurbished units, it has been announced. The work at the Ryemarket comes as a major regeneration project in the town centre moves closer to completion.

Managers said they wanted to 'rebrand and refresh' the centre to complement the redevelopment work taking place. The Crown Centre scheme will include a Tesco supermarket and shop units. It is due to be completed by Christmas.

We've won battle, but not war



Garry Sawers and Friends of Dudley Hippodrome show their joy at putting the future of the site on the agenda

Hippodrome gets stay of execution

DELIGHTED campaigners bidding to save Dudley Hippodrome from demolition declared they had 'won the battle but not yet the war' after councillors deferred making a decision on its future.

Supporters welcomed the news, saying it would give them more time to put forward their case for reopening the former theatre.

Councillors agreed to delay deciding on a planning application by the council to demolish the landmark building in Castle Hill to get more information on the group's plans.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group wants to reopen the venue so it can stage West End-style shows and theatre workshops.

Chairman Geoff Fitzpatrick said today he was pleased the Hippodrome had been given a stay of execution but said the group wouldn't rest on its laurels. "This does not mean the fight is over by any means but it does give us more time to put forward our case in even more detail than before," he said.

Last year Dudley Council announced its plan to bring down the building as part of a £10 million

project. But the Friends group launched a petition which collected more than 20,000 signatures.

They even submitted a business plan for the resurrection of the theatre but the council has been told by an independent consultant that the plan was not viable.

Councillor Tim Wright said: "When it's gone, it's gone."

"I think we really really need to make sure every line of discussion has been explored before we consent to the demolition of the building."

● Magnet – Page 10

140 jobs to go with closure of hauliers

A HAULAGE firm is to close its plant in the Black Country with the loss of 140 jobs, it was revealed today.

French distribution company Norbert Dentressangle will shut its depot in Rowley Regis and instead invest in a new central UK headquarters in Crick, Northamptonshire.

All 140 jobs at the plant in Doulton Road will go but staff are being given the chance to transfer to the Northamptonshire site.

Mike Bridges, managing director of Norbert Dentressangle transport services, said: "In line with our aim of continually improving our service to customers, Norbert Dentressangle is investing in a new 285,000sq ft facility at Crick for the UK Transport Services division."

"This change will involve the transfer of operations from our depot at Rowley Regis, which will close. The proposed relocation will be phased and is scheduled to begin from January 2014 and be completed by May."

Forklift truck driver Phil Mees, aged 44, said: "We were told last week that the Rowley Regis depot will close next March and we will all be made redundant. But it's too far for most of us."

Mr Mees, a divorcee living in Bluestone Walk, Rowley Regis, added: "I've worked here for eight years. We all knew this was coming – but I'm gutted really."

Forums to hear views

COMMUNITY forums are being held across Dudley to give residents the chance to raise issues. Ten meetings will run between September 2 and 11.

Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews and Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood community forum takes place on September 2.

The next day, Coseley East and Sedgley community forum will take place and Upper Gornal & Woodseton meeting is due.

For details, log on to www.dudley.gov.uk/about/community-council/community-forums/

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NEWS

CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Hotshot Reanne	6
Letters	7
Memory Lane	10
Village News	14
What's on	24
TV Listings	25
Property	29
Motoring	31
Classified	34?
Sport	39-40

CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Dudley who can help:

Tom Mason: 01902 319466
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlotte Lilley: 01902 319490
charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk
Will Ackermann: 01384 353213
will.ackermann@expressandstar.co.uk
Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Sharon Marris: 01384 353209
sharon.marris@expressandstar.co.uk
Louise Jew: 01384 353201
louise.jew@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex.ross@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk
Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk

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Sports: E-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk
Photographic John Sambrooks
Tel: 01902 319431

Advertising:

Nikki Cope
Tel: 01902 319573 E-mail: n.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

Emma Parkes
Tel: 01384 353234 E-mail: e.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Inn for more rooms as hotel opens



Councillor Alan Finch at the hotel opening with staff members Tracy Williams, left, and Katie Hopkinson

A £3.5 MILLION hotel has opened in Dudley by the Mayor, Councillor Alan Finch. Premier Inn, which has 62 bedrooms on Castlegate Business Park, has created 22 jobs.

Operations manager James Tishshaw said: "We're delighted to be opening here. We believe the location is excellent. We are in close proximity to Dudley Zoo and the Black Country Living Museum, it is perfect for families wanting to stop somewhere."

"We have initially taken on 22, but as the

custom increases I am sure we will be taking on new staff to meet the demand."

The hotel concentrated on bringing in people aged from 16 to 24 who had been out of work for some time.

Katie Hopkinson, aged 20, from Pensnett, who used to go to Prestwood School, Kingswinford, said: "It is fantastic they can help young people who are trying to look for a job but finding it hard in the current climate. I think it brings everyone together."

Unions hit back over equal pay fight claims

TWO workers' unions have spoken out after claims hundreds of women were let down in their battle for equal pay settlements from Dudley Council.

Almost 200 female former and current employees attended a meeting last week to voice their anger at unions and the council over the payouts they received.

Many of the women, which include catering staff, cleaners and care assistants, claim they were not given the right advice from union representatives - arguing they should have been offered more.

They say they could have got up to £85,000 each, but instead received as little as a few hundred pounds from the claims first made in 2010. But Andrew Maybury, secretary for Dudley General branch of UNISON, defended the union today, claiming the advice given to each affected woman was correct.

Mr Maybury said: "UNISON's solicitors advised the people who had received initial offers from the employers to reject them."

Solicitors

"However, many people chose to go against their advice and accepted the offers and legally signed away their rights to make further claims."

"Those people who followed the advice of the union's solicitors and rejected the initial offers have, by and large, received larger settlement offers."

He added: "It is the view of Dudley General Branch of UNISON that members did receive appropriate legal advice and that that advice has subsequently proved to be correct."

"We do not feel that we can be held responsible for those members who chose to reject the legal advice they were given."

Gordon Gibbs, secretary for the Dudley branch of GMB, also disputed the women's claims. He said: "The council did settle cases we were involved in, but it is untrue to say we told every person to accept, there were instances we told them not to take an offer. Obviously, every case was different and each one was treated on its own accord."

"There are hundreds of women at Dudley Council who were given the wrong advice and have not received



Protesters - current and former workers from Dudley Council with solicitor Paul Savage at the Hare & Hounds

the money they were owed," he said. "A proper investigation needs to take place into this, and the women need someone to help them fight for the money they are owed."

Alison Darke, 47, from Halesowen, who has worked as a care assistant at Dudley Council for nine years, said the council and unions have treated them appallingly.

Discussion

"They have treated us as if we are stupid, as if we wouldn't realise that others were being paid more," she said.

"They told everyone not to discuss their claims, in the hope we would not realise. The unions have not done their job properly and have not been on our side, and I know that's because we are women and they did

not think we were worth fighting for."

Dudley Council responded by saying no further payments would be given to those who had signed a legal agreement.

Councillor Gave Partridge, cabinet member for human resources, legal and property, said: "Equal pay is an incredibly complex piece of work and every settlement is subject to a legal agreement approved by ACAS."

"Everyone is made fully aware of the circumstances when agreeing settlements, before making the agreement they are advised to take their own legal advice and speak to trade unions."

"However, we are unable to make any further payments where a legal agreement has been signed."

Ex-worker's pneumonia led to death

A QUADRUPLE former factory worker died in hospital of pneumonia after his inability to move left him susceptible to chest infections, an inquest heard.

Andrew Homer, of Brierley Hill, was left immobile after a disc in his neck moved years ago and required constant care from his family and district nurses.

Dudley Coroners Court yesterday heard the 51-year-old had been admitted to Dudley Russells Hall Hospital on September 13 last year.

Senior coroner Mr Robin Balmain was told Mr Homer, of Leys Road, Brierley Hill, had suffered from pressure sores for some time despite equipment such as a specialised mattress.

He was taken to hospital for further treatment but had failed to respond to further courses of antibiotics.

Mr Homer died on September 16, 2012. Mr Balmain concluded he had died from natural causes.

Music and dance feast

A FEAST of music and dance acts will appear in a variety show in Colesey in aid of the Mayor of Dudley's charities on August 22.

The show, starting at 8pm, will be held at Colesey Working Men's Club, Ivy-house Lane, off Birmingham New Road.

Councillor Alan Finch, Mayor of Dudley, said: "I'm delighted that the club is hosting the night for us and I am looking forward to seeing some talented entertainers and meeting people in the audience."

He will attend with his Mayoress, wife Heather, to represent his two chosen charities, White House Cancer Support and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

Tickets cost £3 and are available from the club or by calling 07412 531924.

Helpers needed for a spruce up

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help spruce up Stourbridge. Tidy Stourbridge, which meets regularly, is holding a Pick 'n' Pint event on Wednesday August 14.

After the pick, volunteers then gather together for a well-earned pint. They should meet at The Raven pub on Woods Lane, Brierley Hill, at 7pm, to tackle rubbish in the Caledonia area to the west of Thorns Road, Quarry Bank.

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Sky high with bike rides for borough

CYCLISTS can enjoy eight free bike rides in as part of the Sky Ride Local programme in a Black Country borough. Dudley Council is encouraging people to dust off their bikes and get cycling again with a series of 25 led-rides.

There will be eight rides in August, with a further six are planned in September.

Among the events this month are the Netherton Kneejerk on August 11 which meets at Netherton Park activity centre at 10am. Then on the same day at 2pm, a traffic confidence builder cycle for the less confident cyclist will meet at Mary Steven's Park activity centre at 2pm.

On August 18, rides will start from the health hub at Netherton Park at 10am, and then at 2pm at Himley Lane car park. The Sky Ride Local programme is a series of free guided bike rides around the area.

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture at Dudley Council, said: "With support from the trained ride leaders, riders of all ages can feel confident of a ride suitable to their skill level and enjoy meeting new people."

For details visit www.goskyride.com/Dudley

Doom to be compere at rock event

RADIO presenter Johnny Doom will compere a music festival which will hit the Black Country later this month.

Judgetock takes place at Sandwell Valley Country Park over the August bank holiday weekend and features Blue, Lemar and The Twang. The Kerrang Radio station presenter will be compere on August 24. The festival runs from August 24-26.

He will introduce a line-up of bands including The Quireboys, Mitchel Emmis who performs with his band, Mister Nothing, Guns or Roses and Pearl Scam.

The festival is in memory of local man Simon Turton who lost his battle with cancer in 2011. Tickets are £12 for a day plus booking fee and £30 plus booking fee for the three-day weekend. More information can be found on www.judgetock-musicfestival.co.uk

Watching your paes and queues on big day

FREE pigs pudding, grey paes and bacon served up in every pub, a live concert and flags flying – are just some of the ways Express & Star readers have suggested the region could celebrate all that is good about the Black Country.

The suggestions come after it was revealed a Black Country flag flew in front of a government office on a supposed Black Country Day – only no-one in the area knew anything about it.

Now, West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson has asked for opinions on whether

the Black Country should have an annual celebration, like people in the north celebrate Yorkshire Day.

A date for the day has been suggested as July 14 to coincide with the anniversary of the invention of the Newcomen Engine in 1712, the first steam engine in the world.

It comes after the Department of Communities and Local Government marked Black Country Day by raising a specially-designed banner on the anniversary of the invention of the Newcomen steam engine on July 14, which has pride of place at the Black Country Living Museum.

The banner depicts a chain link on a

black, white and red background and was designed last year as part of a competition.

The winning entry was by Gracie Sheppard, of Redhill Primary School, in Stourbridge. But the Express & Star has been asking for suggestions of what we should celebrate.

Ideas have included music stars like Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant or Noddy Holder and Slade as well as beers and breweries such as Batham's, Holden's, Davenport's or Banks'. Writing on the E&S Facebook page, Steve O'Brien said he'd want 'free pigs pudding, grey paes and bacon in every Banks's pub'. Alan Stanfield agreed with

serving up grey paes while adding another reason to celebrate would be 'seeing a great Black Country group, live'.

Members of the St John's Church Preservation Group said: "We have purchased our flag and will be flying it from next week."

Chris Kelly, Tory MP for Dudley South, was involved with the flag-raising event and said: "I'd like to see Black Country Day repeated next year. I think this, as the first celebration, was deliberately low key with the first flag unfurled above the Department for Local Communities and Government in Whitehall."

● Bostin' – See Page 20

Peace medal honour for Korean War hero Gordon, after death

by Sharon Marris

AN ex-serviceman from the Black Country was honoured for the vital role he played in the Korean War just weeks before his death following a battle with cancer.

Gordon Nicoll, 86, was presented with a Peace Medal sent by the Korean Embassy to recognise his service in the campaign at a ceremony held at Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

The medal was created by the Korean Government to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the conflict and very few have been presented to anyone in the UK.

Mr Nicoll, who lived in Rowley Regis for many years, was presented with the award by Royal British Legion members David Weaver and Derek Wright during the ceremony on June 11, which was attended by four generations of the former soldier's family.

Staff at the hospice, in Hagley Road, worked to secure the accolade after being told Mr Nicoll, who served with the 1st Battalion Argyll and Southern Highlanders, had been awarded a Presidential Unit Citation years ago but had been unable to attend the presentation.

Ceremony

Mr Nicoll had been a full-time carer for his wife, Irene, at the time and could not travel to Stirling Castle for the ceremony. In later years his family had tried to get a citation but they were no longer available. The Peace Medal was sent in lieu of the citation along with a message from Korean defence attaché Juhyeon Park expressing the country's 'heartfelt appreciation for his dedication'.

In a final twist, staff at the hospice tracked down and secured a citation for Mr Nicoll in America – and presented it to him in a smaller ceremony at the hospice on June 14. Just days later his condition deteriorated and he died on June 24.

His son Ian said: "When he received the Peace Medal he was very emotional. Then to finally get a citation, which he had wanted for so long, was just icing on the cake. I cannot praise staff at the hospice enough. They took all the work we had done in the past to try and secure an acco-



Gordon seen in 1944 shortly after joining up

lade and they just ran with it. It meant so much to my father. I am pleased he got to hold both those medals before he died." Mr Nicoll leaves behind two children, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

He was born in Halfords Lane, West Bromwich, on an estate known affectionately as The Barracks on May 21 1927 and attended schools in Brasshouse Lane and Crocketts Lane. He left school at 14 and first

worked for Midland Red before joining the armed forces at the age of 17. Mr Nicoll first joined the Black Watch Regiment at the end of 1944 and was posted to Germany and India.

He was transferred to the Argyll and Southern Highlanders in 1948 serving in Palestine and Hong Kong before being dispatched to Korea.

He worked in the military transport section – which has the responsibility to



Gordon Nicoll and his wife Irene on their 1954 wedding day



The Korean Peace Medal sent by the country's embassy

transporting troops, weapons and food to the front lines. He was demobbed at the end of 1952 and returned to work at Midland Red as a heavy commercial vehicle mechanic later working for Guest Motors in West Bromwich and Yorkshire Imperial Metal Industries in Smethwick.

He married his wife at Smethwick Council House in 1954. Ian, who has a sister named Jayne, said all the family were all delighted to see him receive the accolades.

NEWS in brief

Brownies design security posters

DUDLEY police joined the 1st Sedgley Brownies as they designed posters to warn people about burglars as part of their crime prevention badge.

PCSO Michaela Evans, from the Sedgley and Gornal neighbourhood team, spoke to the youngsters. She told them how to help their parents and family members protect their home by keeping windows and doors shut and a light on if no-one is home.

The posters were presented to officers at Sedgley police station and two winning entries were chosen to be pinned to the station's noticeboard to raise awareness with local residents. The winners were eight-year-old Daisy Ford and Lilly Worton, seven.

Russells above average in poll

RUSSELLS Hall Hospital scored above the national average for the number of patients recommending its A&E department.

Patients across the country have been quizzed as to whether they would recommend A&E and in-patient wards at hospitals. Hospitals can score between -100 and 100 depending on how people rate the service, and Russells Hall got 61 – well above the average of 52.

However, just three per cent of patients responded to the survey for the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

SpongeBob gives youngsters a treat

CHILDREN visiting a Dudley shopping centre were able to meet a popular cartoon character.

SpongeBob Square Pants dropped into Merry Hill and entertained families and posed with children for photographs.

Senior centre manager Kelly Reed said: "We knew he would be a hit and, with more than 600 people turning up to meet him, we were not wrong."

Hall opens up to show sneak peek

VISITORS to historic Himley Hall, near Dudley, will be able to take a sneak 'upstairs-downstairs' peek behind closed doors.

A series of guided tours are being set up to show people areas not usually open to the public.

The tours costing £6.50 run throughout August and September. Pre-booking is essential on 01384 817817.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



CANCEL Armageddon. It seems all those dire warnings about bees and butterflies dying out and crops failing through lack of pollination may have been exaggerated. A few hot, sunny weeks have seen a startling rise in the number of insects, with some beekeepers claiming their hive colonies are back to normal. Watch out for a sudden change in the headlines over the coming weeks as our attitudes shift:

- *Bees and butterflies booming - official
- *Enough bees - now buzz off!
- *Clouds of butterflies ruin royal christening
- *Miliband demands action on killer cabbage whites
- *Mad moths bit my baby

Remember, you read it here first.

□□□□□□□□

THE third SAS recruit struck down with heatstroke on the Brecon Beacons last month has died and still some armchair generals thunder on about the need to train special forces to the limits. If this triple tragedy had happened to SAS soldiers on patrol in Afghanistan, heads would roll. That it happened in full view of the public on a mountain in the UK is beyond belief, and beyond excuses.

□□□□□□□□

MICHAEL Curry and his partner Kathleen McLelland spent £20,000 on a caravan for their retirement. It was stolen and turned up 18 months later 10 miles down the road in Hampshire, occupied by a traveller family who claimed to have bought it from someone in a pub for £300. Police say there is not enough evidence to charge anyone with theft and, if the couple want their caravan back, they will have to take civil action because removing the travellers from the stolen caravan would breach their human rights. Do you remember a time when stories like this used to surprise us?

□□□□□□□□

JANE Austen is to appear on the £10 note marking a little victory for women campaigners who feared male domination of Britain's paper currency. Miss Austen published just six novels, all of which make the point that the very best thing a woman can do with her life is marry a rich man. A strange sort of hero for the feminists.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Poor families face cut to council tax benefits

COUNCIL tax benefits could be cut for low-income families in Dudley borough under plans to make savings.

Dudley Council is considering making changes to its Council Tax Reduction scheme from April 2014 in order to save cash. The council's decision-making cabinet has already formally recommended an 8.5 per cent reduction.

by Sharon Marris

However it will not make a final decision until later this year. A fresh consultation has now been launched to get residents' views on whether the scheme should continue as it is or the changes should be made.

Last year the Government abolished the national council tax benefit scheme and replaced it with local initiatives - such as the Council Tax Reduction scheme. It meant a 10 per cent loss in Government funding, around £2.4 million in Dudley.

Changing

Following a consultation, the authority decided to protect all low income families from any cuts in the council tax benefits they receive.

But officials today said that the authority was facing further cuts to its funding and a decision had to be made on whether to make savings by changing the reduction scheme.

Residents are being asked to choose between three options. The first is to make no cut at all while the second is the authority's favoured

option of an 8.5 per cent cut with some protection for vulnerable groups. The third option is for a 20 per cent cut in the amount of council tax reduction given by the council. This would mean low-income families would have to pay more council tax.

Pensioners must be protected from any changes to the scheme - but the consultation asks if any other groups should also be protected if changes are made.

The consultation can be completed at www.dudley.gov.uk/benefits

Alternatively, copies are available at Dudley Council Plus and all borough libraries. The consultation ends on October 18 and a decision made later in the year.

Cabinet member for finance, Councillor Pete Lowe, said: "Last year we made the decision to fully protect residents from the Government's policy change. However, finances continue to be under severe pressure, which means we really need to ask local people what they think."

Zoo loco gets first woman driver



Volunteer Sally Skinner gets behind the wheel as Dudley Zoo's first woman train driver

A DUDLEY Zoo volunteer has been left chuffed after becoming the first female land train driver in the attraction's history.

Sally Skinner passed all the rigorous road train driving tests with flying colours and can now be found behind the wheel of the much-loved locomotive every Sunday.

The 38-year-old, from Cradley Heath, is a well-known face at the zoo having been a volunteer for three years.

She said: "It was a bit overwhelming at first being in a very male dominated environment and I do get the odd quips about

women drivers, but I am very proud to be Dudley Zoo's first female train driver.

"It's quite difficult to drive as it's completely different to driving a car, but I am enjoying it and it's great to see the children's reactions to the train as they all love riding on it. I'm also having to get used to having my photo taken quite a lot, as children want to be pictured with me and the train."

The red locomotive-style land train travels up and down Castle Hill, taking dozens of children, parents, buggies and baggage every day.

Author's joy after novel is new film

A LONG-awaited film adaptation of a Black Country author's debut novel starring Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth has been completed.

Writer Steve Watson, originally from Stourbridge, hailed the two hours he spent watching the movie as 'the most emotional night of my life'.

Before I go to Sleep is based on the book of the same name, which has sold more than 350,000 copies. Nicole Kidman stars in the film with fellow Hollywood heavyweight Colin Firth.

She will play Christine Lucas, who wakes up to find she does not recognise her life, while Colin Firth will play her husband Ben.

Mr Watson attended a screening of the film in London with other stars, crew members and the production company. A few changes are expected to be made before the final cut is put together ahead of its release early next year.

Mr Watson said: "The film is absolutely brilliant - it was one of the most emotional nights of my life. Nicole Kidman is totally brilliant as Christine."

Mr Watson spent a number of days on set in London during the winter. The movie is expected to be one of the biggest hits of the year when it is released.

Mr Watson, aged 41, said Kidman had 'really got inside the character'.

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ABTA

Call goes up to sign on for the great run

PEOPLE are being urged to sign up for the second annual fun run around the streets of Halesowen in September.

The run, which has been renamed the Great Black Country Road Run, helps raise money for good causes around the region.

Around 400 people signed up for last year's run but the event has now been expanded to include both 5k and 10k courses.

Organisers from the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club are now hoping to entice athletes around the country to take part in the race.

Visit www.bostinrun.com for more details and to sign up. Around 800 places are available for the September 22 event.

Rotarian Alan Bowler, who is the event director, said: "Last year's fun run was an unprecedented success, a community fun-filled event and raised £6,000 for good causes but the 2013 event will be even bigger and better."

He added: "We wanted to open up the event to the whole region so from now on it will be called The Great Black Country Road Run and we have implemented changes so even more money can go to local charities and good causes."

Money raised from last year's event was shared between Midland Air Ambulance, MacMillan Nurses and Birmingham Children's Hospital's cancer unit.

A bun in the oven sees cake couple cook up retirement

A BUN in the oven is halting four decades of cake-making by a Black Country couple known to thousands of local brides.

For Michael and June Gadd, who have produced an estimated 14,000 wedding cakes in their 40 years in business, are now expectant grandparents. And they have decided to retire so that they are free to travel frequently from their Sedgley home to America – to see their grandchild, due to be born over the New Year to their 28-year-old son Michael and his wife Shannon in Chicago.

They are in the process of selling up their equipment at Gadd's Special Cakes in Watsons Green Road, Kates Hill, Dudley, ready to close at the end of August, after putting the icing on their final orders. "We're very excited about expecting our first grandchild," June said.

Longer

"We've seen the scans and are looking forward to the birth between December 31 and January 6."

"Our son wanted us to go and live in Chicago, where he is a financial adviser, but we decided, after 40 years, we would retire at the top of our game so that we can go for longer periods to America to see our grandchild."

Michael, now aged 68, met June, 62, when he was chef and she was receptionist at the Park Hall Hotel in Wolverhampton, which was winning competitions thanks to his skills.

by Louise Jew

Michael and June first set up business at the Fighting Cocks pub in Fighting Cocks, Wolverhampton, in 1973.

Four years later, after Michael won a gold award in London for his cake-making skills, they spread their wings and moved to their current premises.

He is the master craftsman behind the creation of lavish confections, which have ranged from replicas of the Empire State Building and the Eiffel Tower to a snorkelling bride and groom, while June handles the design, marketing and finances.

"You can always tell a Michael Gadd cake from the taste," said June.

"They're made in the old fashioned way."

Colourful creations and cakes for christenings, birthdays, anniversaries and all kinds of celebrations have filled their bakery with sweet aromas.

Brides have chosen all manner of themes for their cakes – from caravan vans to castles and Disney palaces.



Mike and June Gadd from Michael Gadd Cakes for Special Occasions who are shutting up shop after 40 years

Ex-MP in running to join EU parliament

A FORMER Stourbridge MP is in the running to become a Labour candidate to try and win a seat in the European Parliament. Neena Gill, who lost her West Midlands seat in Brussels in 2009, has been chosen by the party to contest the elections next May.

Her position as the leading candidate means she is almost guaranteed of winning back her old job because of the European system of proportional representation, which allocated seats

based on parties' shares of the vote.

Siôn Simon, former MP for Erdington, is second on the list and will win a seat if Labour improves its share of the vote. He stood down as an MP in 2010 to campaign for Birmingham to have an elected mayor.

Former Stourbridge MP Lynda Waltho is third on the list. She lost her seat in Westminster to Tory Margot James in 2010. The other candidates are Birmingham councillor Ansar Ali

Khan, Stoke councillor Olwen Hamer, lawyer Anthony Ethapemi and Rugby councillor Claire Edwards.

However they are only likely to get elected if the Tories, Lib Dems and UK Independence Party all poll very badly. Labour's deputy leader Harriet Harman said: "I am proud that that such strong, committed and inspiring people have been picked by ordinary Labour Party members."

NEWS

in brief

Taxi fares could be about to rise

TAXI fares in Wyre Forest could be increased after proposals were lodged by drivers amid concerns over the rising cost of fuel and licence fees.

Councillors will consider an application for a change in the Hackney Carriage fare tariff – the maximum amount drivers can charge for journeys.

Four options for new fares have been put forward by Bewdley Taxi Association with increases ranging from around three to 16 per cent depending on the length of the trip.

Prostate therapy prolonging lives

NEW treatments have tripled the life expectancy of British men with incurable prostate cancer over the last 10 years, research has shown.

Patients treated at a leading London cancer hospital that pioneered new therapies now survive 41 months on average, compared with between 13 and 16 months a decade ago.

Roof fall man is rescued by crew

FIRE and ambulance crews rescued an injured man who appeared to have fallen through a hole in the roof of a disused abattoir on the edge of Stourport.

The man was brought down from the first floor by Stourport's retained fire crew.

He was given pain relief before being taken to hospital.

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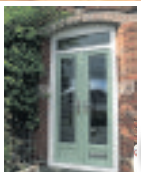
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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

ANOTHER term beckons for Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe following his landslide victory in last week's general election.

There have been some voices expressing concerns that the ballot might have been rigged, but these suspicions do not seem to be shared by people on the ground. A recent opinion poll showed that among the population of Harare, 140 per cent believed the vote was free and fair.

POOR little rich kids, don't you just love them?

Natalie Hynde, the daughter of Pretenders singer Chrissie Hynde and Kinks frontman Ray Davies, was arrested last week for her part in a protest against shale gas exploration in Sussex.

So, mimed was Harry Potter lookalike Natalie, that she and boyfriend Simon 'Sitting Bull' Medhurst decided to super-glue themselves to the entrance gate of the site where the work was taking place. Not my idea of a day out in the country, but each to their own.

However, they appear to have overlooked one obvious flaw in their protest, which came unstuck the moment officers arrived with a bottle of super-glue thinner. Flippin' coppers, they think of everything don't they? Still, the pair had their moment in the limelight. And besides, the weather over the weekend was atrocious.

It seems that Natalie is actually a bit of a jack-of-all-trades of the protest movement, having previously been involved in the Occupy London sit-in and the demonstration against the Bexhill-to-Hastings link road.

Natalie now describes herself as a 'full-time environmental protester', which sure beats working in a supermarket, even if the wages aren't much cop.

Of course youthful rebellion is nothing new, but Natalie is 30 years old and Simon the Sitting Bull 55. Wouldn't you have expected them to have got all this out of their system and, I dunno, settled down into a job, by now?

Maybe Simon, who used to work as an RAF photographer, is having a mid-life crisis, but I think on balance a Harley Davidson makes more sense.

WE HAVE heard much about the rip-off charges of banks, and utility providers, but what about car insurance providers?

This week I have been charged £45 by my car insurance broker for simply changing the number plate on my car.

This 'administration fee' is nearly a quarter of my annual premium. Apparently, £15 of it goes to the insurance company for updating the documents, and the remaining £30 to the broker for the onerous task of taking the details and passing the information on.

Time for an investigation, I think.



With her vast collection of trophies at home in Dudley



Daughter Lauren, who is now seven, holds a trophy



Reanne during the Wuxi Classic in China last month

World champ Reanne breaks from the norm

ANDREW TURTON talks to one woman who combines life as a top snooker player with being a young mother

SHE juggles motherhood with hours in the practice room perfecting big breaks to become the queen of women's snooker.

Yet the reigning ladies world snooker champion Reanne Evans can go unnoticed as she joins parents on the school run in her home town Dudley.

The 27-year-old, from Gornal, is top of the women's game, lifting the WLBFA World Ladies' Snooker title nine consecutive times.

But the Black Country's queen of the baize is not content to notch records against other women players and is now trying to establish herself at the highest level of the men's professional tour.

While the men's game is going through a commercial revolution at the hands of sports magnate Barry Hearn, the women's game often goes unnoticed in clubs across the country.

Devoted

Reanne scraped together what prize money she wins along with support from her devoted family to allow her to travel on the women's tour across the country.

The game is quickly expanding to far-flung destinations abroad like the Far East and Russia.

And Reanne is now sharing the spotlight with the greats of the game including 'The Rocket' Ronnie O'Sullivan and former world champion John Higgins.

She became the first woman ever to reach the final stages of a main ranking snooker tournament when she qualified for the 2013 Wuxi Classic in China last month.

She received adulation as she was mobbed by fans, signing autographs and posing for pictures. But despite all her success so far she says nothing is more



Women's World Champion snooker player Reanne Evans with her trophy

satisfying than being a mother to her seven-year-old daughter Lauren.

"It's brilliant and I hate to be away from her," Reanne explained. "But luckily I have built-in babysitters with my parents who are a great help to me. Also we have Facetime [mobile video calling] which has helped a lot."

"You know you are away on tour and that's your job and you've got to do it but it helps that she is with my mom and dad."

"I won one world championship when I was seven-and-a-half months pregnant with my daughter. I went there

to practice until by chance one day Reanne picked up a cue and realised she had talent. "My elder brother was late for practice one day so his mates said 'come on pick your cue up, let's have a game' and we played and I took to it straight away," Reanne says.

She says she received funny looks from men in the clubs, adding: "I was the only girl at the time so there was a little bit of a thing but I used to beat all of my brothers' mates and they'd never come in again."

She was soon part of Midlands league teams at the age of 16 and was encouraged to play on the ladies' tour – all while studying part time at sixth form. It was not long before success followed and in 2005 she won her first world title aged 19. Her father created a purpose-built snooker room in the back garden at home to help her improve.

Coverage

Trophy cabinets are packed full of prizes and her burgeoning career has also been supported by On Q Promotions.

But Reanne says she is happy to help lead the way for the women's game to get more coverage.

"I also want other women to be playing on the men's tour," she said. "I've taken my coaching badge and I'm now a World Snooker coach so if they want me to help the ladies then I'd be happy to do it."

"I want to prove that I can play and make a living out of a game that I like playing."

Reanne has called on businessman Barry Hearn, who led the development of darts and boxing coverage, to help develop the women's side of the game to coincide with his commercial transformation of snooker.

Ideas include a mixed doubles event and changes to the seeding structure for main tournaments to improve competition and encourage women to play.

"At the minute there is only me playing on the men's tour but I'd love for there to be more," she said.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

BRIDE Adele Hughes was left blushing after her £70,000 Rolls Royce wedding car broke down. A replacement Bentley was hurriedly dispatched to her Wombourne home but she still arrived 10 minutes late for the ceremony.

A WOLVERHAMPTON man had a lucky escape after a gas cylinder exploded, setting his bathroom ablaze. Fleet-footed David Manford escaped with minor burns after leaping to safety through the bathroom window of his terraced house in Bilston.

WEST Bromwich Albion players and officials were involved in a mid-air drama during a flight to a pre-season training trip in Amsterdam. Their jet developed an engine fault as it was flying over Norfolk, forcing the captain to make an emergency landing at Heathrow Airport.

1993...

WELEPHANT met the elephants during a preview of a jumbo fire safety scheme at Dudley Zoo. The West Midlands fire service mascot met real-life elephants Kasama and Flossie to promote the fire prevention campaign which was aimed at children and pensioners.

A PRACTICAL joker who was sacked when a prank backfired won back his job with Dudley Council. The prankster lost his job after advertising a colleague's car for sale at a knockdown price leaving the victim inundated with calls from bargain-hunters.

EIGHT hundred Chubb workers in Wolverhampton staged the first of a planned wave of strikes over a management plan to stop union meetings. Staff at the three Woden Road factories walked out despite the company denying it had adopted an anti-union line.

2003...

SIR Bobby Charlton was at Molineux for an emotional ceremony to unveil a bronze statue of Wolves legend Stan Cullis. The nine-foot statue features a bronze plinth carved with Cullis's most poignant saying: "You only get one life, and I gave mine to the Wolves."

AT least one fire engine in Wolverhampton was out of service every day due to a shortage of firefighters in the city. Officials said recruitment problems during a period of industrial action meant not all of the city's fire engines could be manned.

A Stourbridge grandmother had a new-found claim to fame after discovering she designed the motif on the Zimbabwe flag. Joan Haigh originally designed the bird emblem for a carpet in a civic building in Zimbabwe in 1958.

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LETTERS

Frustration over bus lane confusion

I AM completed frustrated with the unnecessary bus lanes in Halesowen Town Centre. This has been a blight for local residents and the community now for more than eight years.

It angers me to find West Midlands Police have recently been 'tweeting' about the number of fixed penalty tickets issued on July 26 for drivers who were using the bus lane.

Under many circumstances this is unavoidable because of the way the road markings are set out, ie leaving Pool Road from the public car park on a busy Friday to travel towards Dudley.

It is my understanding that Dudley Council agreed a plan to remove these

after the completion of the new bus station and return the Queensway into Halesowen and Bromsgrove Road out of Halesowen to their original state.

The bus station has been complete for two years now and still the council has not put forward a plan to resolve this.

As a local who visits the town centre regularly I am fully aware of the problems these bus lanes have caused for the community.

It is now impossible to join Bromsgrove Road from Pool Road during busy periods as this means crossing the bus lane and the queues form all the way back into the centre of Halesowen. It is

also dangerous travelling down the Bromsgrove Road past Tenterfields where, on busy periods, the inside lane converges and all the traffic is forced into one lane.

It is no surprise people are using an empty bus lane when there is a high volume of traffic and they can see nothing in the bus lane.

Normal traffic far outnumbers the volume of buses which use the route and it is about time the road system was put back to its original design to benefit the majority of road users.

NICK GREGORY
Howley Grange Road
Halesowen

Elderly will suffer with more bins

IT seems Dudley council has decided to introduce another wheelie bin in the autumn for our household rubbish.

Where we live it is very hilly and I was wondering how the older folk are going to cope having to wheel out their cumbersome bin, pull it down steps to place at the edge of the pavement and then lug it back into their gardens when empty.

How are they going to cope when there is snow and ice on the pavements, it is a pity Dudley did not offer wheelie bins as an option, rather than making them compulsory.

It is also a pity they did not ask those that vote them in, whether we would actually like another wheelie bin.

Maybe the council is going to employ an operative that will go around and replace the said new bins back into older folks properties.

PHIL WALKER
Intended Street
Halesowen

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle
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WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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expressandstar.co.uk

Improved transport is the way forward

PETER Rhodes uses every opportunity to criticise the High Speed 2 plans (July 25), even though his piece a week earlier suggests he has little idea what is actually in them.

But I am surprised the Chronicle has failed even to acknowledge there is an argument in favour of HS2.

Only by improving transport can the UK's economy become less centralised in the south east and without better infrastructure, Britain will lose out to international competitors who are investing in theirs. Also by diverting inter-city passengers on to new tracks, more capacity on existing routes will be available for regional passengers, commuters and freight.

The plans cleverly bring major improvements to inter-regional links and new journey opportunities between the Midlands and North and places such as Heathrow.

And not least, that the Stourbridge area will benefit in particular because of its privileged links directly to the hub of the new network at Birmingham Moor Street.

CASPAR LUCAS
Castle Grove
Oldswinford, Stourbridge

Workmanship

MANY people living in Sedgley will appreciate the standard of workmanship being carried out in replacing the stone wall in Gospel End Road, Sedgley.

Perhaps now someone on the council will look at turning Gospel End Road by the Court House pub into a one-way system either by using Vicar Street or by removing the unused toilets and using the top part of Ettimore Road.

PL CUNNEEN
Tennyson Road
Lower Gornal

Hospital praise

DURING the past three and a half years I have spent time in Russells Hall Hospital, at the clinics and recently two stays on the day care unit. The staff were brilliant from reception to the anaesthetists who came to talk you through what was going to happen once you were taken into the theatre. Nothing was too much trouble everyone was brilliant. Also, Corbett's urology department staff are superb. Many thanks to all.

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NEWS

Chance meeting for diamond couple



Doreen and Ken Price who met while out with friends, mark their anniversary



The couple on their wedding day

A COUPLE who met by chance outside a well-known Black Country landmark are celebrating 60 years of married bliss.

Ken and Doreen Price were both out with friends for a walk when they got chatting outside Sedgley's Clifton Cinema in the town centre. Their relationship soon flourished and they courted for five years before tying the knot on July 18, 1953. The couple celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary at the Bell at Belbroughton pub.

Doreen was born in Sedgley and raised in nearby Coseley while Ken was born and bred in his house in North Oval, Upper Gornal. The couple still live in Mr Price's family

home. Mr Price, who attended Tutor County Primary School, worked for the MEB for more than 25 years.

His wife had been a pupil at Queen Victoria Primary School before working at various places including Nicholls Nursery, Gorge Road, Sedgley. They were married at St Peter's Church, in Upper Gornal, before having the reception at the Guild Hall in Upper Gornal.

The couple have two daughters Elaine and Jeanette, four grandchildren and a great grandson called Dexter aged two. "It has been nice to celebrate the anniversary with our family," Mrs Price said.

Site cleared for £6m hotel

A FORMER factory has been flattened to make way for a £6 million hotel and restaurant aimed at boosting tourism in Stourbridge.

Demolition work is taking place at the former Cox Hire premises in Birmingham Street. Buildings on the four-acre site - used for many years by the firm before it relocated to Netherton - have been reduced to rubble.

Contractors from DSM Demolition, which recently pulled down the Bell Street multi-storey car park to make way for the new Tesco supermarket,

have been working on site. Once it has been cleared, construction work will start on the 80-bedroom Premier Inn and Brewers Fayre restaurant. It is due to be completed by spring 2014.

The scheme is a joint venture between Barberry Developments, Whitbread Hotels and Restaurants and Cox Hire Ltd. Barberry managing director Jon Bellfield said the site was an ideal location for a scheme of this kind.

"It is well-positioned for people to explore the Black Country and the surrounding countryside," he said.

"The scheme will create new jobs,

attract additional visitors and help to support existing businesses in the area."

Spokesman for Whitbread Hotels and Restaurants John Bates said: "The new hotel in Stourbridge complements others we are soon to open in nearby areas, including Dudley. We are looking forward to opening our doors to customers in spring 2014."

Dudley Council granted permission for the hotel, which will be built in an L-shape at a height of four-storeys, earlier this year. Talks are currently taking place with potential drive-through operators for the site.

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NEWS

Work forging ahead on offices at business park



Dave Henley, of AC Lloyd, Steven Smith, of Bennimans, Dan Gallagher, of Stoford, and Steve Holland and Mark Cutayar, from the probation trust

Joy for college director in 100-mile ride success

A COLLEGE director from Wall Heath is celebrating after completing a gruelling 100-mile cycle challenge for charity. Kim Babb finished the Prudential London Surrey ride on Sunday in six hours, 50 minutes. She took part in the challenge in memory of former Stourbridge College IT director Alex Speed, who died last year at the age of 45.

She said: "The charity's work has become more poignant for me recently Alex died suddenly last year

in his early forties as a result of a heart problem.

"The cycle ride was created to celebrate a cycling legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"With leg-testing climbs including the famous Box Hill and a route recently made famous by the world's best cyclists, I finished on the Mall in central London."

To support her fundraising efforts log on to www.justgiving.com/Kim-Babb

WORK is now well under way on the new two-storey office scheme being built for Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust on Dudley's Castlegate Business Park.

The scheme will see around 80 staff move into the new building when it is finished, and will see the closure of existing probation service offices in Netherton, Halesowen and Stourbridge.

Offender management staff based at Dudley Magistrates' Court will also relocate to the new building.

On behalf of the probation trust, Birmingham-based property specialist Stoford has appointed Bromsgrove-based Benniman Construction Group to build and fit out the 10,000 sq ft development.

Work is due to be completed by the end of this year. The project has been funded by privately-owned property investment company AC Lloyd which will retain the completed development within its portfolio.

Outstanding

It is Stoford's second development on the site owned by the Homes and Communities Agency. The other was the recently completed 63-bedroom Premier Inn hotel and restaurant.

Dan Gallagher, who is joint managing director of Stoford said: "We look forward to delivering these two important schemes, which are the result of outstanding cooperation and excellent team work."

Steve Holland, head of asset management at the Homes and Communities Agency said: "We welcome this further development at Castlegate which will have a positive impact on the economy of Dudley."

A planning application was submitted to Dudley Council by developer Stoford, contracted by the Ministry of Justice.

The planning permission was granted, paving the way for the scheme to start.

Construction is expected to end by September.

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MEMORY LANE



Dudley Hippodrome, which was opened in 1938 on the site of the Opera House



Some years later, the Hippodrome in 1970, 12 years after it became a bingo hall



Babes in the Wood at Dudley Hippodrome in 1943, with Billy Russell on the right



Inspecting the damage of the burnt-out Dudley Opera House in 1936

Hippodrome was a magnet for a long list of top stars

THE opening of the elegant Dudley Opera House on Monday, September 4, 1899 was a spectacular event for the town.

Honoured guests included the Earl and Countess of Dudley, the mayor, and members of the town council.

They were joined by 'a large and fashionable audience' who tested the holding capacity of this 'handsome building, occupying a commanding position'.

Designed in the Italian Renaissance style, it was made of red brick with terracotta dressings, while its stage was of such height, width and depth that 'it will allow of the most elaborate scenic effects'.

That evening it was brought alive with a performance of The Mikado by the D'Oyly Carte Repertory Company, admirably supported by Dudley's orchestra.

It must have been a most proud night for John Maurice Clement, the man whose energy and enthusiasm had pushed forward this project on land he had purchased from the Earl of Dudley. Born in the town, Clement had once worked at the Earl's estate office, but he was always drawn to theatre.

From involvement in amateur dramatics he became a theatrical agent and in 1888 he opened his first theatre, The Colosseum in Trindle Road. This had been

by Professor Carl Chinn

a circus but it became the home of drama in Dudley until the Opera House was finished.

Like most owners of similar theatres Clement was unable to get by with productions of operas and Shakespearean plays. He had to widen the appeal with more popular plays and even variety shows. Dudley Opera House continued in this vein until 1936 when it closed after it was damaged badly by fire. The site was then bought by the Kennedy brothers who built the Hippodrome theatre and the Plaza cinema next door.

Streamlined

A splendid Art Deco building, the Hippodrome was designed by Archibald Hurley Robinson, a Birmingham architect who was well-known for his Art Deco cinemas. This connection explains why from the outside the Hippodrome looked like a super-cinema with its streamlined facade. Inside, there were also Art Deco decorations.

The Hippodrome held 1,700 people and was one of the biggest and best-known venues across the Midlands. There were full houses as top artists and comedians appeared. Laurel and Hardy performed there, as did Bob Hope - and when he did so, crowds packed the

approach roads in the hope of getting a glimpse of the American star. Variety, plays and musical comedy also drew sizeable audiences, while the D'Oyly Carte Company with operettas by Gilbert and Sullivan was popular, as were spectacular ice shows and celebrated pantomimes. But the theatrical heyday was brought to an end by the rise of television, and the Hippodrome closed as a live venue in February 1964.

Fortunately, it continued to be a popular venue as a bingo club from 1967. Sadly, though, this magnificent building has lain empty since 2005 and is threatened with demolition. Malcolm Palmer is one of many local people who vehemently oppose these plans; instead they want the Hippodrome to be brought back into use. Here, Malcolm shares with us some of his memories of that iconic structure.

"I first started going to the Hippodrome in the latter part of the 1940s with either my parents or my aunt and uncle. The pantomimes were always special and a great attraction to youngsters like myself. Early recollections included seeing Billy Russell in pantomime.

"Russell was Birmingham-born and in the latter part of his life had regular appearances in Crossroads. Malcolm was instrumental in starting the Friends of the Hippodrome, which is campaigning to bring the building back into full and sustainable use.

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NEWS

Drive-ban beauty queen Ruby calls for new laws

Legion gets life-saving gear



First Responder Emily Bennett and Legion chairman George Dudley

LIFE-SAVING equipment has been donated to a Dudley community.

A defibrillator has been installed at the Royal British Legion building, in Summerhill, Kingswinford, for use by residents in an emergency.

An open day was held there recently and visitors were given the chance to learn life-saving techniques.

The defibrillator has been donated by West Midlands Ambulance Service and South Staffordshire First Responders.

It is located in a yellow box at the front of the building. People who need to use the equipment in an emergency first call 999. They are then given the code to unlock the

box. Emily Bennett, aged 26, from Kingswinford, who is both a first responder and a member of the legion, said: "I approached the club to see if they would be interested in housing the defibrillator."

"They were really pleased to do so. There have been incidents in the past where someone has gone into cardiac arrest while in the town."

"The legion building is the perfect location as everyone knows where it is."

Retired firefighter and chairman of Kingswinford Royal British Legion George Dudley, 74, said: "This is not only as an asset to the club but the community as a whole."

BEAUTY queen Ruby Bowater is calling for new laws banning motorists from drinking any alcohol before getting behind the wheel - after she was caught drink-driving.

Eighteen-year-old Miss Bowater, the current Miss West Midlands, has been banned from driving for a year and fined £110 by Dudley magistrates after admitting being over the limit. She claims she had drunk just one Southern Comfort and coke all night but her reading was still 110mg alcohol in 100ml of blood - the legal limit is 80mg.

And she said a zero limit was the only way to avoid the confusion which landed her in court, where she was also ordered to pay £85 costs and a £20 victim surcharge.

Miss Bowater, of Weavers Rise, Netherton, whose great uncle was killed in an accident with a driver under the influence of alcohol, said: "I was really shocked when I found I was over the limit - I couldn't believe it."

"People who know me that I am not a big drinker - I do a lot of charity work and, as a beauty queen, I am a role model and I don't get out and get off my face."

"I had just one Southern Comfort and it was more than five hours later when the police stopped me."

"The law should be changed so that one drink is too much," said the former Halesowen College student, who passed her driving test less than six months ago.

"There should be zero tolerance," she added.



Ruby Bowater

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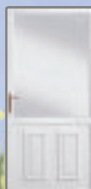


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NEWS

Photo sparks three stone weight loss



The picture of Laura Wade which made her lose weight



A slimmer Laura after losing more than three stones

WHEN Laura Wade saw an unflattering photograph taken of herself at a friend's wedding, she decided it was time to shed the pounds.

So the 29-year-old from Stourbridge joined a slimming class – and is now showing off her new slimline figure after losing more than three stones in 12 months.

The community worker is enjoying a new lease of life thanks to her regime and is now vowing to help others in the same boat.

She says she had piled on the pounds after starting university where she binged on junk food because it was cheap.

After graduating, she continued

with the bad habits she had fallen into with friends, which included snacking on chocolate. In the end her GP told her to lose weight after she hit the scales at 15st 1lb.

"I realised I needed to do something, and a bad photo at a friend's wedding sealed the deal," she said.

Her doctor recommended she joined a slimming class but Laura, who was previously a size 16, was sceptical.

"I'd seen a lot of people I know try to diet, only to pile it all back on again a few months later when they got tired of counting calories and feeling deprived."

But she stuck with it and changed her eating habits to include healthier

meals with more fruit and veg while still allowing herself some treats.

Laura, who is now a size 10 and attends Kerry Morgan's Slimming World group in Oldswinford, said: "I still enjoy eating out."

"Curry is my absolute favourite but I also love fish and chips. You can include these meals in your week without feeling guilty."

She is now running her own group at the Ridge Primary School, Wollaston, on Monday at 7pm. "I want to show other people that yes, you can be slimmer, you can stay slim, and you can enjoy the journey," she said.

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Email: tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk or call 01902 319466**Legion back to its best with event to celebrate**

A BRITISH Legion branch that lost its headquarters after a decline in membership continues to bounce back with a family fun day.

A bouncy castle, pub quiz and raffle will be some of the attractions at the event at the Robert Peel pub in Rowley Village, Rowley Regis from 1pm on August 17.

All proceeds will go to the group whose 40 or so members meet every second Tuesday of the month from 8pm and who continue to take part in marches across the region.

The 91-year-old club relocated to the pub in 2011 after falling numbers forced them to close their headquarters in Powke lane.

Committee member, Councillor Bob Price, said: "For us it is not just about raising money for the legion it's also about saying a big thank you to the Robert Peel for helping us to continue on."

New apprentices at housing group

A HOUSING association has appointed three new apprentices to work in its head office in Blackheath.

Ravinder Singh, apprentice community projects assistant, Ryan Homer, administrative assistant, and Michael Westley, repairs operative, will work for the Black Country Housing Group.

Start of work on crematorium is step nearer after approval

WORK at Rowley Regis crematorium is a step nearer to starting after planning officers approved plans for the project to go ahead.

Work on the site in Powke Lane is expected to start in autumn and will include work to renovate and extend the chapel to allow more than 100 mourners to take part in services – double the number it currently holds.

The long-awaited £1.4 million project has had the support of local religious leaders and funeral directors who were instrumental in the redesign of the site.

The work will also include the conversion of an old toilet block into a cafe and a memorial garden with flower beds and a fountain.

Sandwell Council's deputy leader and cabinet member for town and neighbourhood services Councillor Mahboob Hussain said: "Our staff offer a wonderful service at both of our crematoria, and we want to bring the Rowley Regis building up to the same standard as the one at Sandwell Valley."

"We need to make the chapel bigger because

by Tom Mason

mourners often have to stand outside during services and the site also needs more parking spaces.

"The improvements will benefit everyone who attends the 900 services we hold at Rowley Regis Crematorium each year."

It is hoped the crematorium which opened in 1962, will follow on from the £3.25m Sandwell Valley Crematorium in West Bromwich, which was recently awarded a Green Flag by the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.

Rowley Regis councillor Barbara Price added: "It's a wonderful thing that it's going ahead."

Predicting a great night out

A VENUE in Rowley Regis is predicting a night of success with their latest ladies psychic event due later this month. The Glam Girl event at Blackheath Coronation Club, George Avenue, will feature tarot card readings and mediums. There will also be a charity raffle for the Make a Wish Foundation. The free event is on Friday August 16 from 7pm until 10pm at the club in George Avenue, Rowley Regis.



Caroline Cooper, who is delighted to have been nominated for a design award

Caroline has design on award

A DESIGNER from a Rowley Regis firm that creates luxury bathrooms has been shortlisted for a national award.

Caroline Cooper, who runs Roman Bathrooms on Blackheath High Street, is one of only three designers put forward for the Kitchen Bathroom Bedroom Specialists Association Designer of the Year award.

The award recognises outstanding design skills in the kitchen, bathroom and bedroom sector.

She said: "It is fantastic to have made the shortlist for these awards which showcase the very best talent in our industry."

Association chief executive Graham Ball said: "Our members offer outstanding professionalism and expertise and these awards provide us with an opportunity to recognise and reward their high standards of design."

The winners will be announced in September.

Big draw for Beano bonus

READERS of the Beano in Blackheath had the chance to meet one of the cartoonists behind many of the comic's famous characters at the town's library.

Laura Howell, aged 36, met with children and adults at Blackheath Library last week to pass on some of her expertise at a series of special workshops. "It's tremendous to see them drawing," said the illustrator.

Her library visit was part of Sandwell Council's summer programme of encouraging youngsters to read books over the holidays.

Singer Scott's soul purpose

RESIDENTS in Blackheath will be able to relive the soul era as one of the town's pubs holds a night of Motown music.

Soul man, Scott Bench Taylor, returns to the Knight's Quest pub in High Street, Blackheath, to perform a selection of hits from Marvin Gaye, Wilson Pickett, and Smokey Robinson. The night costing £3 will open from 7.30pm until 2am.

Public to quiz police on crime

PEOPLE will be able to quiz police officers about crime in Blackheath when the town's neighbourhood police team holds a surgery.

The event takes place at Blackheath Library on August 16 from 5pm until 7pm. Officers will be on hand to discuss local issues and help answer questions.

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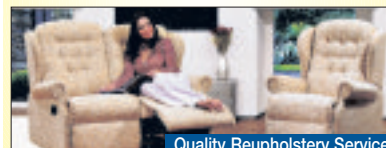
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NEWS

Sky is the limit for Karl as he aims for his wings

A DISABLED former soldier who was so badly burned by a bomb attack in Iraq that he had to learn to walk again, is training to be a pilot.

And while Karl Hinett is in the air so is love because he popped the question to his girlfriend.

The Dudley soldier-turned-fundraiser proposed to girlfriend Beth Platts, aged 26, on a trip to Japan.

Now he is in training to get his licence with hopes of becoming a commercial pilot when he qualifies.

Karl, also 26, lives in Dudley with Miss Platts, who supported him in his epic challenge to run 100 marathons in two years in aid of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Charity Birmingham, said he proposed while they were overseas two months ago.

Amazing

Although he has a wedding to plan, although no date has yet been set, Karl, of Stirling Road, will be staying focussed on his latest goal.

He said: "It was funded by Help for Heroes and the place where I am actually training is Blackbushe Airport, Surrey.

"The company who are sorting out all the training is a company called Aerobility which caters specifically for disabled people, so they help get people with disabilities and teach them to fly.

"Currently what I am training to do is complete my private pilot's licence which in the grand scheme of becoming a pilot is the start of it which requires me to do a minimum of 45 hours of flying.

"There are numerous exams that I have to sit, a lot of theory, but that is the first step on the ladder to becoming a commercial pilot."

Karl started training earlier this month and admitted the challenge was



Karl Hinett looks to the future as he undertakes training to be a pilot

daunting. "It really is nerve-wracking," he said.

"There was no messing about, we were straight into the air with the good weather we had, so I got a lot of practise up in the air.

Tricky

One of the tricky manoeuvres was learning how to cope when the aircraft stalls so that was quite nerve-wracking, but it was amazing and it is all run by people who have experienced hardship through their own disabilities and the people who run it are amazing."

"When the opportunity came along I jumped at it," he added.

As a private with the Staffordshire Regiment, Karl suffered severe burns to his hands, legs, arms and face after

the armoured vehicle he was travelling in was bombed in Iraq in 2005 while he was serving in the Army.

His injuries were so bad he had to painstakingly learn to walk again.

But he said the experience has made him snap up any challenges that come his way.

"I could never imagine half the things that I have done now I would have done before I was injured," he said. "The injury changed my life, it just made me really say 'yes' more when opportunities came along.

"Everyone's a bit hesitant when trying new things, but instead of backing down to nerves and uncertainty I just think at least I have tried. It has definitely given me a brighter outlook on life."

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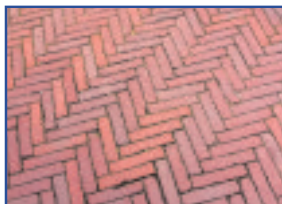


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NEWS

Couple will fight rules that keep them apart



Back together Robert Cooper and his wife, Adna

WHEN church pastor Robert Cooper was told his beloved wife of 13 years could not join him back in the UK because of new immigration rules, he said his life had been ripped apart.

by Louise Jew

But now after six months away from each other the pair are back in each other's arms and temporarily reunited - and have vowed to continue their fight to be together.

Mr Cooper immediately fell in love with his wife-to-be Adna, aged 35, while he was working as a missionary in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and after six months he married her at Kingswinford Christian Centre, before the pair worked and settled in the region for three years.

But after returning to the South American country for nine years to teach English at a private school and then run a church, Mr Cooper, aged 38, was told by the Borders Agency that he could not bring back his wife to the United Kingdom.

Payslips

The is due to immigration rules introduced last July which mean only British people who show they have earned more than £18,600 a year can sponsor their non-European spouse's visa.

Mr Cooper was earning more than that but because the First Renewal Presbyterian Church is a non-profit organisation, he cannot get payslips for the application, in order to prove his earnings.

The authorities have now let Mrs Cooper return to the

Black Country for six months only on a tourist's visa while the couple appeal the original decision and make a new application to the Home Office.

They hope to win their battle by arguing the rules breach their human rights by keeping them apart.

Mr Cooper, who returned to live with his parents Robert and Katherine in Comber Drive, Pensnett, in March, said: "We are just overjoyed to be back together but there is still a long way to go so we just need to keep fighting."

He added: "It is totally unjust. We know this is only temporary but we just want to enjoy it for now."

Mr Cooper taught in Brazil before becoming a pastor. Last year he returned to set up a church in London and assumed his wife, aged 34, would follow after submitting an application for an indefinite visa for her but it was rejected.

Mr Cooper was brought up in Pensnett and attended Pensnett School. He worked for Laidler Steels before heading out on church mission for Kingswinford Christian Centre in 1999. Mrs Cooper worked at the former Kwick Save in Pear Tree Lane, Dudley.

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Fence vandals under fire after teen tragedy in pool at disused quarry



A CORONER has criticised vandals who damaged a fence around a disused quarry allowing youngsters to access the site, including a teenager who drowned in a pool there, as an inquest ruled his death was accidental.

Police said the firm which had owned the site did 'everything it reasonably could' to secure the pool known locally as

the Blue Lagoon near Himley. A jury yesterday took less than 30 minutes to return a verdict of accidental death on the death of 15-year-old Augusto Zacarias.

Jurors heard Augusto and a group of friends had entered the site, through a gap in a fence on July 25 last year. The teenager, who could not swim, had slipped from a ledge and into the marl hole pool, near the Crooked House pub, Himley.

His friends had desperately tried to help him but the teenager had panicked. Jurors heard his friends had managed

to get him to the side of the pool but, in his fear, he had pulled away from the edge.

Emergency services were called but Augusto disappeared beneath the water.

Giving evidence at the hearing at Smethwick Coroner's Court, John Davies, health, safety and environment manager at Wienerberger, which owned the site at the time of the tragedy said: "On the morning this tragedy took place we had a contractor out to repair the fence as there had been trespassers on the day before," he said. "There was a situation where

repairs could be done in the morning and the fence could be damaged again later the same day."

And he added 4x4 vehicles had been used to tear down the fence previously.

Senior Coroner Mr Robin Balmain said: "The damage to the fence was caused by someone from the community. The people who have done this know who they are and will need to live with the fact that what they did will undoubtedly have been an encouragement for these boys to go onto the site."

Councillor climbs every mountain

VETERAN fundraiser, Dudley councillor Steve Waldo has climbed every mountain, at least in the Lake District valley of Wasdale, for his latest challenge.

Adventurous Steve, aged 57, tackled four routes, conquering 20 peaks, including England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike. The expedition took a total of 29 hours, covering 40 miles with a total ascent of 15,000ft.

The representative of St Thomas's ward in Dudley, said: "Giving something back to those less fortunate whilst still able to enjoy the outdoors is a win-win situation for me. I did question my own sanity one evening whilst desperately trying to shelter behind rocks at 2,500ft in a torrential thunderstorm."

He estimates that, thanks to the help of colleagues at Solway in Oldbury and at Dudley Council, he will raise about £1,500 to split among Leukemia Care, Action Heart, Dudley Cancer Support and West Midlands Lupus.

Fans in the pink for Grease spectacular



Pink Ladies Donna Eccleston, Lisa Mitchell, and Laura McElhinney who were there to watch the film Grease

IT really was a summer night to remember as Grease became the word again – at a drive-in movie night at Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre.

The iconic film went down like greased lightning with more than 400 local 'T-Birds and Pink Ladies' from all over the Midlands singing their hearts out as they enjoyed the on-screen action.

The centre transformed one of its car parks into a cinema, inviting film fans to dance and sing along to the classic tracks, including Summer Nights.

In the heatwave, many of those who did not have convertible cars just sat on the bonnets of their vehicles to enjoy the 1950s romance.

MP welcomes move for specialist homes

A COUNCIL-led scheme to build two new specialist facilities for people living with learning disabilities and autism has been welcomed by a Black Country MP.

A total of 14 flats at sites in Norfolk Road, in Wollaston, and The Walk, in Sedgley, will be built under the project, announced last week.

It was made possible after £385,000 was awarded from the Government's Care and Support Specialist Housing Fund.

The total cost of the scheme will be £2.1 million. Dudley South MP Chris Kelly said: "I am absolutely delighted by this announcement and the benefits that it will bring to those with learning difficulties in the Dudley area. "The 14 apartments on the Wollaston and Sedgley sites will provide an improved quality of care, through long-term supported living, for its residents."

The grant is part of a £130m nationwide funding announced by the Homes & Communities Agency.

It follows previous successful bids by the council, including an award of £36,000 to forge ahead with plans to transform the first floor of the boarded-up Merlin's Cafe and Wine Bar in Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, into one-bedroom apartments.

Zebra will stop board-om

A ZEBRA has returned to Dudley Zoo for the first time in 15 years – but all is not what it seems.

The stripey animal is actually a life-size cardboard creation, handmade by a talented volunteer to be used with the attraction's pack of African hunting dogs.

The work was carried out by Laura Partridge, aged 22, from Tipton. The cardboard zebra was filled with tasty meat treats by keepers before being placed in the enclosure. Zoo presenter, Caroline Howard, said: "Laura is a really great volunteer. We are really grateful to her."



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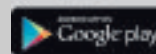


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NEWS

Residents determined to prove value of home



New Bradley Hall residents and their carers are seen at work in the home's garden, attending to the flowers

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save a threatened care home in Dudley organised a gardening event for residents as part of their bid to prove its worth to council bosses.

The future of New Bradley Hall, Kingswinford is being reviewed by Dudley Council as part of a wider examination of adult social care in the borough.

The council had back-tracked on plans to close the home in Compton Drive last April – but no long-term commitment has been made for the site, which has just over 20 elderly residents.

An action group led by Mac Scott

MBE has been lobbying new adult social care boss at the council, Councillor Dave Branwood, to keep the home open.

Last week, Mr Scott arranged a gardening event for the residents to show the benefits the care home was providing its users.

Craftwork

The home also provides activities such as shopping, music, craftwork and outdoor visits.

Mr Scott said: "I want to prove to the council the home is not just somewhere people are put to let them die – they are given fun and enjoyment and no-one wants to leave."

"Many of the residents have lived there for more than 10 years. They

don't want change, they want to stay put with their friends and the carers they trust."

"We hope to keep reminding the council of this, of course we are still concerned they have not committed long-term." Mr Scott's mother-in-law Irene Claridge, aged 96, is cared for at the home.

She was among 5,000 who signed a petition to save the home when its closure was first proposed. He said: "This is a wonderful Dudley Council-owned care home and the residents are extremely happy and contented living there."

Mr Scott has been told to wait until the end of the summer to hear the result of the council's review into adult social care in the borough.

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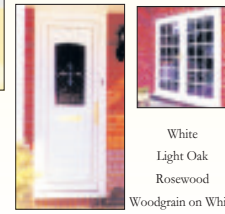
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NEWS FEATURE

Flying the flag for best in bostin' Black Country

by Daniel Wainwright

FROM the Newcomen Engine to Titanic's anchor, from faggots and paes to the unmistakable taste of orange, battered chips – the Black Country has plenty to shout loudly and proudly about.

But a single flag flying from a government office in London was the only mark of a day to celebrate all that is good about it.

Now an MP wants to make Black Country Day an annual event that shares pride in industry, culture and heritage.

Tom Watson is canvassing opinions from politicians and residents across the four boroughs of the Black Country about what should be included if the day becomes a fixture in the calendar.

Competition

It comes after the Department of Communities and Local Government marked Black Country Day by raising a specially-designed banner on the anniversary of the invention of the Newcomen steam engine on July 14, which has pride of place at the Black Country Living Museum.

The banner depicts a chain link on a black, white and red background and was designed last year as part of a competition.

The winning entry was by Gracie Sheppard, of Redhill Primary School, in Stourbridge and recalls the famous description of the Black Country by Elihu Burritt that it was 'black by day and red by night' owing to the smoke and fires of industry.

But other than that no celebrations



Ann Key, in period costume, with the newly-designed Black Country Flag

were held at all and even the Black Country Society, which supported the creation of the flag admits it passed its members by as did the Black Country Living Museum. Mr Watson wants to emulate the annual Yorkshire Day held on August 1 when towns across the northern county come together to hold events.

The MP for West Bromwich East said: "Yorkshire Day has been celebrated since 1975 and I think we should replicate it in the Black Country."

He added that politicians and civil servants in London often had little knowledge of the Black Country: "When I was a minister I was amazed how few civil servants knew that if you wanted to go to West Bromwich you get a train to Sandwell and Dudley, rather than Birmingham."

Calendar

Mick Pearson, who edits the Black Countryman magazine for the Black Country Society, said: "I knew about the



A traditional chainmaking lesson taking place



Ray Franklin seen with the Newcomen Engine

flag being flown but I must admit the day got lost or forgotten. We've missed the boat for this year but I think it should be on the calendar."

Andrew Lovett, director and chief executive, Black Country Living Museum, said: "We'll do more next year at the museum."

● Anyone with ideas on how to develop a proper Black Country Day can email Mr Watson at watson@parliament.uk or contact him on Twitter @tom_watson.



Back to 2010, when a replica of the Titanic's anchor, originally made by Hingley's in Netherton, was pulled by shire horses to the town

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NEWS FEATURE

Hollywood pub next stop for bus blinds

DUDLEY, Wolverhampton, West Bromwich, Birmingham – next stop Hollywood, all change.

Anyone looking closely at this picture of superstars Noel Gallagher, Russell Brand and Morrissey enjoying a night out at The Cat and Fiddle on Hollywood's Sunset Boulevard will notice a touch of the Black Country lurking among the stars.

The wall of the fabled bar is adorned with none other than bus blinds from the West Midlands and Staffordshire, bearing names of stopping points such as Essington, Bradley, Coseley, Wednesbury, Stourbridge, Pattingham and Cheslyn Hay.

Manually

The old destination blinds, used by drivers to display where they were going to, have been hanging in the Cat and Fiddle for more than 20 years.

The full list is of 60 destinations ranging from West Bromwich to Wombourne, Bilbrook to Blakeley Green, Princes End to Penn Fields and Bilston to Bloxwich.

They used to be wound on manually by drivers. Today's buses have electronic displays.

The Cat and Fiddle, where the blinds are displayed, has been a British themed pub in Hollywood for more than 30 years and was opened by Londoner Kim Gardner, the bassist with bands such as Creation and Ashton, Gardner & Dyke, who recorded three albums and had a number three hit in 1971 with Resurrection Shuffle.

The Cat and Fiddle moved from its original premises on Laurel Canyon Boulevard to 6,350 Sunset Boulevard. Kim Gardner died in 2001 but his



Noel Gallagher, Russell Brand and Morrissey at the Cat and Fiddle



The destination blinds at the pub widow Paula and daughter Ashlee continue to run the pub. Ashlee, aged 30, said the blinds had been bought at an antiques fair in the Midlands by her father – but she did not know where.

She said: "They seem to be popular with the customers and British people are interested in them."

Youth

Ashlee said her father was proud of his English heritage and 'wanted to celebrate that in LA'.

Kevin Chapman, from the West Midlands Campaign for Better Transport,



Ashlee Gardner, who runs the bar said: "The blinds would either be from Midland Red or perhaps the old Wolverhampton Transport Corporation." Former Darlaston man Stephen Page, who left his job as a Wolverhampton Council youth worker in the 1990s to move to Hollywood, said he had visited the bar in 1994 when the blinds were on the ceiling.

Destination blinds are seen as collectors' items. One from the former Wolverhampton Transport Corporation or its successor WMPTE believed to date from the 1970s sold for £82 on eBay in May.

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Denture troubles? Unable to live life spontaneously?

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THERE'S seemingly an impossible amalgamation between glamour and dentures, but these unlikely descriptive bedfellows are increasingly being thrown together at a ground-breaking Dudley clinic.

Under the watchful eye of dentist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng), founder of the Denture Clinic, based in North Street, hi-spec prescriptions are helping turn back the hands of time.

Recently, the practice has undergone a major refurbishment, with three disciplines – general dentistry (North Street Dental), implantology (Total Implant Solutions) and the prescribing and manufacturing of dentures (Denture Clinic) all under one roof.

Key to a £1m investment are two new ground-floor surgeries, an level main entrance at the rear, disabled-friendly facilities and a large car park with a drop-off point right outside the reception area. A champion for those who wear dentures, Steven has spent more than ten years campaigning to "break the taboo over false teeth."

He is evangelical about what new generation dentures can achieve.

"Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic



makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients," he said.

"People have come to us with ill-fitting dentures, sunken cheeks and pinched lips and we have been privileged to transform their looks. Can dentures be glamorous? Empathically, yes.

"We are on the cusp of development, so that those who entrust their smile to us can be sure they will be advised on best options."

Steven's work has attracted people from all walks of life, including a former SAS mountain warfare specialist, an airline pilot, a multi-millionaire with his own jet, health professionals and "ordinary

salt-of-the-earth people from the Black Country." The clinic's prosthetics, hand-crafted at laboratories at the Dudley and Wolverhampton practices, have also found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal. And the secret of his success? A seamless service to clients, where clinical assessment and the crafting of prescriptions are all in-house.

"It's a simple formula," said Steven, "but it has allowed me to be fastidious about the quality and we will never compromise on best clinical outcomes."

He admitted that denture wearers are one of the most challenging groups to treat successfully.

"I believe many of them have had a bad deal for years, but we are in the vanguard of changing outcomes and hopefully changing some lives for the better too," said Steven.

Steven draws on more than 30 years' experience in all disciplines of dental technology to produce his hallmark "functional, natural-looking teeth."

Having completed his training as a dental technician and started his own laboratory, Steven enrolled on a three-and-a-half year CDT training course with the George Brown College in Toronto, Canada, to enable him to work in his dental discipline independently of a dentist.

Graduating with honours, Steven undertook a further year's study under the auspices of The Royal College of Surgeons.

Options

Traditional

THE Denture Clinic is renowned for its natural look. Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng), says: "Quality, traditional dentures can be hugely effective."

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DENTURES retained by implants offer a guaranteed solution to stability issues. Implant procedures are available at the Denture Clinic Dudley and Wolverhampton premises through Total Implant Solutions.



Steven Burchell
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(GDC108353)
with Denture Clinic
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GOOD looking professional female, 51, enjoys arts, wine/dining, sightseeing, country walks, seeks special male to enjoy great Summer with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406765

LINDA bored housewife wanting to spice things up a bit looking for clean well-mannered professional for discreet adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406705

SUE slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTW willing male to get to know and spend quality times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406693

PAULINE, passionate, intelligent, discreet married lady seeks discreet special man of any age, call for more info. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 339087

SARA 32 very attractive single mum, OHAC, professional, looking for similar outgoing single dad 35-55yrs for companionship, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406511

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135

SINGLE cuddly female, 5ft 6ins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406015

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTW younger gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319

NAT easygoing pretty, honest 24yrs, enjoys cosy nights in, romantic walks, holidaying, keeping fit, WLTW fun, loving, energetic male, looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406117

SUSAN 34 attractive looking to find that special connection with a nice guy who would enjoy spending good times with me and share new interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406109

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

SINGLE female, 43, seeks kind, considerate male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406449

PAULINE 36 intelligent easygoing female with GSOH looking for nice guy who wants to get know and connect with me, enjoys meals in/out, music and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406373

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406341

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 339373

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380918

BEAUTIFUL olive skinned sensual lady, adventurous, with some naughty ways, discreet and seeks mate. Age/looks/nationality unimportant but must be adventurous. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 345725

NEW to dating and a little nervous, Susan very attractive 30yr old curvy single mum, looking for fun times with similar outgoing male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405809

SARAH 24, brunette, brown eyes, attractive, slim, smart, seeks male with GSOH, 30's in Kidderminster area for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406139

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368429

SHAZ 33 easygoing voluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTW appreciative guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

SUSIE fun loving mum with GSOH seeks gentle considerate to get to know better. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404627

JANE 48yrs West Midlands, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, looking for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403949

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985

SHELLEY 48, 5ft 5ins, brunette, seeking discreet relationship with male 48-52 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405795

MANDY 36, size 10 but busty, looking for discreet relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

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WOMAN 55yrs old, N/S, size 14, likes animals, nature, reading, TV, quiet life, seeks man 45-55, N/S for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404447

BLACK female 32yrs, 38dd, very curvy, sensual and looking for discreet fun with no strings or complications, any age, x licks or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405269

GALE looking for old fashioned man with old fashioned values to sweep me off my feet, enjoy adult fun times and maybe even more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405259

CHRISTINA 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companionship to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more maybe. Age/looks and status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405243

MANDY friendly outgoing arty female who loves wine/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405229

48YR old attractive female seeking long fun male maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947



LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

CLARE 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTW caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297

I am Tracy 39yr old young chatty single female looking for older male to look after me and show me some much needed attention with discretion and no ties. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405293

REBECCA tall slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405281

VOLUNTUOUS big hearted brunette, Maria, 36, loves music, seeks someone special to show her what she's missing. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 346785

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

MARIA petite curvy brunette, into keep fit, running, beauty, looking for nice genuine tall N/S guy with no ties for fun adult companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405099

SALLY 37 blonde blue eyed bombshell who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405203

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308

KIND loving lady 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391863

BLONDE attractive, educated lady, tall, slim, curvy, 47, seeks tall, professional, 40-52. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 362478

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good comparison, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327

YVONNE looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169

BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367021

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blond seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367066

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTW tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 304135

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 327579

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

WIDOW seeking similar aged male to share holidays and weekends out. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389795

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807

MADELINE 5ft black, seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well-dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTW male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

BIG is beautiful! Voluptuous, sensual female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368528

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

FUN loving lady, 56, outgoing, honest, caring, seeks caring male, 55-60 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391192

5FT 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks male, 40-50, honest, caring, trustworthy, down to earth and bubbly. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386741

33YR old busty black haired, medium built, 5ft 3ins female seeking stocky male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389799

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 (T&C's below)

KEVIN 40, stocky, 6ft 2ins, dark hair, likes nights in/out, seeks female, 35-50 for fun and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406773

MARK 45 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, slim, likes sports, cinema, meals out, seeking loving, caring female to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406737

COLIN 5ft 8ins, dark hair, brown eyes, likes pubs, walks, dvds, holidays, seeks nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406677

MATT nice build, likes cycling, clubs, looking for fit, sexy female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406727

PROFESSIONAL local businessman, 40 tall, blue eyes, likes sports, music, seeks professional slim lady for romantic meals, evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406717

ARE you a black princess? 48yr old sporty white male, 5ft 11ins, likes holidays, cinema, meals out, would like to take you out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406551

MALE seeking female, 40-55, discretion assured, status unimportant for daytime meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406433

SHARP dressed man, mature, fun, seeks smart, size 10 lady, any age for friendship and relationship. Hereford. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405323

58YR old male, likes nights in/out, looking for N/S female, 40-60 for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405975

JOSEPH 40 tall, GSOH, seeks female, 26-48 for fun and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394103

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372

38YR old farm worker, medium build, seeks female of similar age for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406331

ATTRACTIVE tall, professional male, GSOH, easy going, likes sport, socialising, seeks female for fun and live life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406317

CHRIS 45, genuine, honest, caring, N/S, likes cinema, theatre, socialising, seeks genuine, N/S female, 38-45, single mum welcome for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406295

46YR old stocky male, no ties, shaved head, likes walks, meals out, motor bikes, seeking female for relationship, are you the one? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406291

SLIM attractive man 51, GSOH, WLTW lady 45-55 for evenings out and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406259

BROADMINDED 67yr old black male, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks lady, 62-69 for friendship and adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406257

MAURICE 50's, seeking N/S female for nights out, friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400425

STRICTLY come dancing. Male 52, trendy, honest, caring, down to earth, fun loving, seeks petite lady, 45-54. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397163

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, broadminded, seeks bored female for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 372407

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405551

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157

ROUGH diamond 45 looking for older lady, the older the better, for fun times, can accommodate, let me entertain you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404437

GEOFF 60's, tall, seeking nice lady for fun, friendship, relationship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406077

PAUL 46, brown/blond hair, 6ft, slim, single dad, genuine, down to earth, fun loving, kind, caring, likes most things seeking female for love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406007

PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet, naughty daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405699

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875

MALE 45, 5ft 9ins, slim, caring, loyal, GSOH, WLTW female, 35-45 for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402493

GARY 39 seeks female 30-50 for fun, maybe relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404487

TALL blue eyed 49yr old gent, N/S looking for soul mate, slim lady with no ties and plenty of love to give and receive, is that you? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404121

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368871

MALE 39, 6ft 2ins, honest, loyal, caring nature, seeks similar female with view to permanent, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400703

CLUB NEWS

Art class in trip to gardens

WOLLASTON 'E' TWG

NO official business was discussed at the July meeting as it was the annual strawberry tea to which chairman Jean Latham welcomed approximately 50 members.

Everyone agreed it was a grand 'do' and thanks go to Sainsbury's for the donation towards the cost of the food, also to members of the committee for all the preparation work.

This was followed by a fiercely fought game of beetle, won by the Marion Breeze team. There was a huge raffle and numerous members left with prizes.

Thirteen floral art class members went by minibus to Hampton Court Castle Gardens, Leominster, where they enjoyed a lovely day, taking lunch and afternoon tea in glorious sunshine.

The bowling section are well into the season and are now beginning the quarter finals of the competition.

Monies collected from the Macmillan Walk amounted to £203 and thanks go to all who contributed and to Jean Dunne who organised the apres walk meal.

The cost for the Harvest Supper on October is £9.50. Names for the skittles evening on October 16 are also being taken.

On September 10, Adrienne Jennett will speak on the West Midlands Fire Service, the competition being a Fire Service related item.

MP invited to club's three-course dinner



Ann Rogers, speaker Patrick Harley, chairman Mary Jones and Chris. Kelly MP

AT the July meeting chairman Mary Jones welcomed 36 members, speaker Patrick Harley and Dudley South MP Chris Kelly for a three-course lunch at the Kingfisher Hotel, Wall Heath.

Mr Harley was excellent and described the remarkable life of Frank Sinatra.

The Kingfisher Hotel is undergoing major refurbishment and both the improvements and the meal proved very popular. There is

DUDLEY SOUTH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

no luncheon in August but members are invited to Ann & Mike Rogers' home for a coffee morning on August 9 from 10.30am.

September's speaker is Sue Clegg on the fingerprinting and in October the Rev Stephen Buckley on 'From Stage to Pulpit'.

Judges address meeting

BLACK COUNTRY FUCHSIA SOCIETY

THE Black Country Fuchsia Society's monthly meeting took place on Tuesday July 30.

Special guests were two judges, Nancy and Arthur Phillips. They were also judging at the club's annual

show last Saturday, August 3 at Pool Hayes Community School in castle Drive, Willehall.

They gave a talk on what the judges look for in a plant,

and answered questions from the audience. Meetings take place at Corpus Christi Social Centre, Griffiths Drive, Ashmore Park, Wednesfield.

star★extraTRAVEL

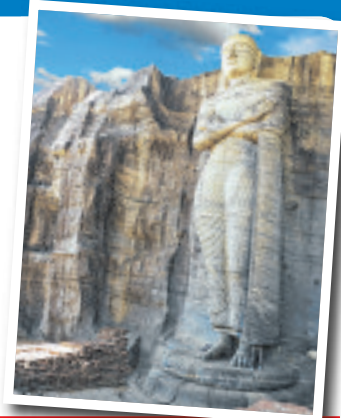
Sri Lanka

Join this comprehensive tour and discover the delights of old Ceylon with its sacred caves, ancient temples and lost cities, ending with two days relaxing on one of Sri Lanka's idyllic tropical beaches. Travel on return scheduled flights from London Heathrow and stay in charming hand-picked three-star hotels, with daily breakfast and dinner included.

One of the first adventures on the itinerary is the famous Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage which boasts a herd of over 75 animals from matriarchs to calves and their daily bath in the river provides a stunning photo opportunity.

Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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What's On! Halesowen

Party at the Love Shack

THE American band who dazzled the 1980s pop scene with their party music and sci-fi retro 60s stylings, The B-52s, are making a rare UK appearance in Birmingham this summer.

The original trio of Fred Schneider, Kate Pierson and Cindy Wilson, who with wonderful immodesty have dubbed themselves 'the world's greatest party band', have a gig at Birmingham's O2 Academy on Thursday, August 15.

Survived

The band from Athens, Georgia, exploded onto the scene at the close of the 1970s with quirky surf punk number Rock Lobster and went on to have hits with Give Me Back My Man, Love Shack and Roam. Kate is also known for guest vocals on tracks by REM and Iggy Pop.

The group survived the death of guitarist Ricky Wilson, Cindy's brother, and came back in 2008 with Funplex, their first album in 16 years.

Fifth member Keith Strickland no longer tours but the crucial three will be joined by a band set to include former Duran Duran and Bowie drummer Sterling Campbell, ex-Waitresses member and bassist Tracy Wormworth and keyboardist Paul Gordon. The latter's pop trivia claim to fame is that he wrote the theme music for Transformers, Robots in Disguise.

Call the venue or visit its website for further details.

Comic Ed enters middle rage in his roaring 40s

CRITICALLY-acclaimed stand-up comedian Ed Byrne is embracing middle-age as he reaches his roaring 40s.

A self-confessed 'miserable old git' since the age of 23, the Irish funnyman is urging fans to join him as he truly comes of age. While for some, this may mean the purchase of a sports car, Byrne is taking a different outlook, as he lets out his battle cry of: "I am in my 40s, hear me roar."

A regular on panel shows like Mock The Week, Byrne has previously performed at major comedy venues.

His Different Class show enjoyed a full run at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2008, following on from the success of his Standing Up Falling Down tour, which was the festival's biggest-selling comedy show in 2006.

Byrne has also performed at top comedy clubs in New York and Los Angeles. He has made five appearances on NBC's Late Night With Conan O'Brien and has been a presenter on RTE's Ed Byrne's Just for Laughs, which ran for four series.

Acting credits include playing a grungy teenager in a Christmas special of Father Ted.

Byrne's tour takes in three dates in the West Midlands, beginning with Dudley Concert Hall on October 13, 01384 812812;



Embracing 40 - Ed Byrne

The Symphony Hall, Birmingham, follows on October 25, call 0121 345 0600; ahead of a gig at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall on February 22, call 0870 320 7000.

Oh, what a show as an icon returns

POP star turned theatre star Marti Pellow plays revolutionary Che Guevara, the cynical narrator in the latest revival of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic musical Evita.

The former singer with 1980s hitmakers Wet Wet Wet is stepping into a role previously played by David Essex and, on film, by Antonio Banderas.

The show is staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Monday, August 19, to Saturday, August 31.

Playing Eva Peron, the iconic wife of 1940s and 50s Argentine dictator Juan Peron, the role that made Elaine Paige a star and played by Madonna on screen, is Portuguese singer and actress Madalena Alberto. Her previous stage roles include playing Edith Piaf and as Fantine in the 25th anniversary production of Les Misérables.

Pellow has had successes in the musicals Chess, Chicago, Blood Brothers and Jekyll & Hyde. Evita's famous songs include Don't Cry For Me Argentina, Oh What A Circus, You Must Love Me and Another Suitcase in Another Hall. Call 01902 429212.



Marti Pellow as Che and Madalena Alberto as Eva Peron in Evita
Picture: Keith Pattison

Soul legend at Bilston venue

BEN E King, the soul legend whose biggest hit, Stand By Me, has become an American classic, is in concert at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Sunday, September 8.

And fans of soul music are in for a two-for-the-price-of-one treat as the 74-year-old singer will be joined by Jimmy James and the Vagabonds, one of the UK's favourite live bands in the 1960s.

The 72-year-old from Jamaica had hits with Red Red Wine in '68, also I'll Go Where Your Music Takes Me and Now Is The Time during the disco boom of the mid-1970s.

Meanwhile, former Drifters member King's other solo hits include Spanish Harlem, and he had previously sung on Drifters hits There Goes My Baby and Save The Last Dance For Me.

Contact the box office at the Mount Pleasant venue on 01902 401211.

Caro in rapid return to Brum

DUTCH pop star Caro Emerald's vintage style is in much demand, as is her jazzy brand of dance pop.

In fact, second album The Shocking Miss Emerald has been such a big success that she has two Birmingham concerts in the coming months.

Demand was so great for her gig at the Symphony Hall on September 16 that she's back to play the NIA on March 22.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 10.08.13

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CHOICE



Keri Russell

The Americans

ITV, 9.50pm
If you want to make a hit American saga, you need at least one protagonist with a dark secret who's keeping their crimes under wraps. Like Dexter and Breaking Bad, that reliable formula has also worked a treat for this series. In the latest offering, Elizabeth (Keri Russell) is bent on revenge after learning of the assassination of a Soviet General whom she knew from her formative years as an agent. Phillip (Matthew Rhys) offers to help while taking a step forward in their separation. The question is: has their teamwork given the FBI a clue as to their identity?

BBC1

6.00 Athletics: World Championships. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **11.15** Athletics: World Championships.
6.30 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.
6.45 **That Puppet Game Show.** New series. Family entertainment show in which two celebrities, beginning with Jonathan Ross and Katherine Jenkins, compete in a number of challenges hosted by a group of puppets.
7.30 **I Love My Country.** Melanie C, Chelcee Healey, Jonnie Peacock, Christine Bleakley, Larry Lamb and Len Goodman demonstrate their knowledge of all things British.
8.20 **The National Lottery: Break the Safe.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three pairs compete in several quiz rounds. Includes the National Lottery results, presented by Matt Johnson.
9.10 **Casualty.** Part one of two. New nurse Rita is late for her first shift when she deals with an injured neighbour, while Jamie bonds with an asylum seeker too scared to reveal he is gay.
10.00 **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Newlyweds Dermot and Maria argue. (R)
10.30 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.50 **Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow.** Featuring Jason Manford, John Bishop, Sarah Millican and Mick Ferry. (R)
11.35 **The Football League Show.**
12.50 Weatherview. **12.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.30** Film: China Sky. (1945) **7.45** Film: Pot O' Gold. (1941) **9.10** Reel History of Britain. (R) **9.40** The Private Life of Plants. (R) **10.30** Athletics: World Championships. **11.15** University Challenge. (R) **11.45** The Sky at Night. (R) **12.05** Film: Cave Her Name with Pride. (1958) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. (R) **3.30** Wild China. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Flog It! (R)
6.00 **Natural World - Sri Lanka: Elephant Island.** Wildlife cameraman Martyn Colbeck travels to the diverse country to study its elephants, a subspecies of the Asian genus which have their own unique characteristics. (R)
7.00 **Proms Extra 2013.** Including a review of Mitsuko Uchida's performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 4.
7.40 **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring tries to get equipment for the platoon. (R)
8.10 **David Starkey's Music & Monarchy.** The historian examines the Crown's rediscovery of the power of pageantry and ceremony and the revival of British music in the 19th and 20th centuries. Last in the series.
9.10 **Top of the Lake.** Robin suspects one of Tui's friends is stealing food for her and could be the baby's father, while Matt Mitcham sends a posse of hunters into the Bush to find his daughter.
10.10 **Qi XL.** With Nina Conti, Sean Lock and Bill Bailey. (R)
10.55 Film: **Hamlet 2.** (2008) Comedy, with Steve Coogan.
12.20 Film: **Tsotsi.** (2005) **1.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.15** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** Poppy Cat. **6.40** Poppy Cat. **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Bookaboo. (R) **7.20** Kick Butowski - Suburban Daredevil. **7.35** The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes! **8.00** Gravity Falls. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Saturday Farm. **12.20** Countrywise. (R) **12.35** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **1.45** Film: Smokey and the Bandit. (1977) **3.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.
6.00 **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring performing tots and a countdown of five teenagers in pain. (R)
6.30 **You've Been Framed!** Featuring fun in the sun. (R)
7.00 Film: **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.** (2005) The teenage wizard is chosen to represent Hogwarts School in a dangerous magical tournament. Fantasy, starring Daniel Radcliffe.
9.50 **The Americans.** When a fellow KGB officer is assassinated, Elizabeth takes matters into her own hands and plots revenge on the CIA bureaucrat responsible for giving the kill order.
10.45 ITV News; Weather.
11.00 Film: **Public Enemies.** (2009) Fact-based crime drama, starring Johnny Depp and Christian Bale.
1.30 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Treacle People. (R) **6.20** The Hoobs. (R) **6.45** VW Racing Cup. **7.10** The Grid. **7.40** FIM Superbike World Championship. **8.10** The Morning Line. **9.10** Station. (R) **1.45** Film: Hell Boats. (1970) **3.40** Film: Columbo: A Bird in the Hand. (1992) **5.30** Film: Jesse Stone: Innocents Lost. (2011)
7.00 **Cricket: The Ashes.** England v Australia. Mark Nicholas presents action from the second day of the Fourth Test at the Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground, where the five-match series continued.
8.00 **NCIS.** The murder of a marine during a cruise is investigated by the agents, who discover the victim had turned his back on a life of privilege to join the military. (R)
8.55 **NCIS.** A Navy recruitment officer is murdered at a high school and the agents receive help from Ducky's predecessor in their search for the killer. (R)
9.50 **5 News Weekend.**
10.00 **Big Brother.** Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the latest eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants.
11.00 **Big Brother's Bit on the Psych.** Psychological analysis of the housemates' behaviour.
12.00 SuperCasino. **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.50** Sluggerra. **11.10** Inside Hollywood. **11.15** Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) **12.45** World's Busiest Train Station. (R) **1.45** Film: Hell Boats. (1970) **3.40** Film: Columbo: A Bird in the Hand. (1992) **5.30** Film: Jesse Stone: Innocents Lost. (2011)
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DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Premier League's Most Amazing Moments **9.00** The Urban Prom 2013 **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy
BBC Four
9.00 Nature's Microworlds **7.30** Eisteddfod 2013 with Sian Williams **8.00** Inside the Perfect Predator **9.00** Sebastian Bergman **10.30** Top of the Pops 1977: Big Hits **11.30** Blondie: One Way or Another
ITV2
3.05 Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **4.55** Film: Step Up (2006) **7.00** You've Been Framed! **9.00** Film: The Bourne Identity (2002) **11.20** Film: Hannibal (2001)
ITV3
3.00 Film: Pride and Prejudice (2005) **5.35** Agatha Christie's Poirot **6.45** Foyle's War **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Wire in the Blood
ITV4
3.40 British Touring Car Championship **5.15** Live Pre-Season Football: Tottenham Hotspur v Espanyol (Kick-off 5.30pm). Coverage of the fixture at White Hart Lane, where Spurs play their final match before the start of the Premier League season. **7.50** World of Sport: Petrol Heads **8.05** Black Gold **9.00** Hell on Wheels **10.00** Film: Natural Born Killers (1994) **E4**
5.30 The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Suburgatory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** Happy Endings **9.00** Film: He's Not That Into You (2009) **11.30** PhoneShop
Film4
2.55 Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998) **5.15** Arriety (2010) **7.10** (500) Days of Summer (2009) **9.00** Road to Perdition (2002) **11.15** Sorority Row (2009)

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2nd - 6th September. 5 day holiday to **Grand Hotel, Scarborough £239 pp** including breakfast, dinner, two excursions and free collection and drop off to your front door.
9th - 13th September. 5 day holiday to **Sand Bay Leisure Resort (adults only) £229 pp** including breakfast, dinner, three excursions and free collection and drop off to your front door.
16th - 20th September. 5 day holiday to **Grand Hotel, Llandudno £229 pp** including breakfast, dinner, two excursions and free collection and drop off to your front door.
27th - 30th September. Long weekend (Friday to Monday) to **Princes Hotel, Eastbourne £229 pp** including breakfast, dinner, and free collection and drop off to your front door.
4th - 7th October. Long weekend (Friday to Monday) to **Isle of Wight at Ocean Hotel, £209 pp** including breakfast, dinner and free collection and drop off to your front door.
7th - 11th October. 5 day holiday to **Cumberland Hotel Bournemouth £259 pp** including breakfast, dinner and free collection and drop off to your front door.

DAY TRIPS

Mid Week Special to **Rhyl** - all seats **£14** - 14th August
Blackpool - ADULTS **£19** OAP **£17** CHILD **£12** - 17th August
Wellsbourne Market and Stratford Upon Avon - adults **£10** oap **£9** child **£9** - 17th August
Mid Week Special to **Barmouth** all seats **£16** - 21st August
Weston Super Mare and Burnham on Sea adults **£19** oap **£17** child **£12** - 24th August
Blackpool ADULTS **£19** OAP **£17** CHILD **£12** - 25th August
Mid Week Special all seats **£14** - **Weston Super mare** - 28th August
Rhyl - adults **£18** oap **£16** child **£10** 31st August
Mid Week Special **Bury Market** all seats **£15** 4th September
Special **Shugborough Hall** all seats **£16** 9th September
Special **Porthmadog** all seats **£15** 11th September
Weston Super Mare adult **£17** oap **£15** child **£10** 14th September
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What's On!

Listings supplied by Press Association

SUNDAY'S TV 11.08.13

CHOICE



Faye Marsay

The White Queen
BBC1, 9pm

It's a testament to this period drama that we're still gripped, even though you don't need to be an amateur historian to know what's going to happen to some of characters. So, we can all nod knowingly this week, as the new king is feeling a bit jumpy about his enemies. His way of dealing with the threat is to honour those he knows are loyal to him, but his wife has a different approach as she talks to Brackenbury in secret. Meanwhile, Elizabeth is so desperate for allies, she even accepts an offer of help from Margaret Beaufort, despite her daughter's warnings.

BBC1

6.00 Athletics: World Championships. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** The One Show: Best of Britain. (R) **12.40** Countryfile. (R) **1.35** Bargain Hunt. **2.05** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.55** Songs of Praise. **3.30** Athletics: World Championships. **7.05** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **7.30** **Celebrity Mastermind**. Famous faces take to the black chair in the specialist and general knowledge quiz. (R) **8.00** **Countryfile**. John Craven is in Northumberland, where he goes in search of the elusive white-beaked dolphin and visits a Bronze Age burial site. Tom Heap investigates GM technology. **9.00** **The White Queen**. Anne worries that Elizabeth is still a threat and plots to kill the princes in the tower, so the former queen is forced to accept Margaret Beaufort's offer of help. **10.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **10.25** **Room 101 - Extra Storage**. Frank Skinner chats to Greg Davies, Ben Fogle and Janet Street-Porter about their pet hates, which include people who use suitcases on wheels, multichannel TV and friends' hobbies. (R) **11.05** **That Puppet Game Show**. Family entertainment show. (R) **11.45** **Film: Win a Date with Tad Hamilton** (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Kate Bosworth, Topher Grace and Josh Duhamel. **1.15** Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15** **Film: Angel on My Shoulder**. (1946) **8.00** Around the World in 80 Days. (R) **9.00** **Gardeners' World**. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.00** Coast. **12.10** EastEnders. **2.05** **Film: Hans Christian Andersen**. (1952) **3.55** The Making of King Arthur. **4.55** **Film: First Knight**. (1995) **7.00** **The Battle for Malta**. Historian James Holland analyses the Second World War battle for the strategically important Mediterranean island, which was under siege by Axis forces for more than two years. (R) **8.00** **Dragons' Den**. New series. Interior designer Kelly Hoppen and cloud-computing pioneer Piers Linney join Peter Jones, Deborah Meaden and Duncan Bannatyne to evaluate a series of business pitches. **9.00** **The Haiky Bikers' Restoration Road Trip**. New series. Si King and Dave Myers meet enthusiasts restoring machinery from the Industrial Revolution, beginning with a visit to Pleasley Colliery in Derbyshire. **10.00** **Blackadder the Third**. Edmund gets caught up in the French Revolution. (R) **10.30** **Numb: Simon Amstell Live at the BBC**. The comedian performs his stand-up show at the Television Centre. **11.30** **Film: The Visitor**. (2007) Drama, with Danai Gurira. **1.10** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.15** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.40** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Bookaboo. (R) **7.20** Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil. **7.35** The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes! **8.00** Sonny with a Chance. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Country House Sunday. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Ade in Britain. (R) **12.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.30** The Community Shield Live. **4.15** **Film: The Mummy**. (1999) **6.30** **Regional Programme**; Weather. **6.45** **ITV News**; Weather. **7.00** **Tipping Point: Lucky Stars**. Coronation Street star Sue Cleaver (Eileen Grimshaw). This Morning's Matt Johnson and Olympic rowing gold medalist Anna Watkins take part in the quiz show. Ben Shepherd hosts. **8.00** **All Star Mr & Mrs**. With Coronation Street's Jane Danson and former co-star Robert Beck, 1980s Doctor Who Colin Baker and his wife, and presenter Michaela Strachan with her partner. Last in the series. **9.00** **Law & Order: UK**. An elderly woman is found dead in her flat. **10.00** **ITV News**; Weather. **10.15** **The Community Shield Highlights**. Manchester United v Wigan Athletic. **11.15** **Perspectives: Hugh Laurie - Down by the River**. (R) **12.15** The Store. **2.15** Monk. (R) **3.45** Motorsport UK. **4.35** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** Ironman 2013. **7.00** London Triathlon. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** Deal or No Deal. **3.00** **Film: Bride Wars**. (2009) Comedy, starring Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway. **4.45** **Film: Leap Year**. (2010) Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Amy Adams and Matthew Goode. **6.40** **Channel 4 News**. **7.00** **Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free**. Kirstie Allsopp and the team fill a family home with some sturdy and stylish pieces, and transform a couple's bedroom, complete with a bespoke dressing table - all for free. (R) **8.00** **The Mill**. Robert arranges to relocate Susannah after finding out who the father of her child is, while Lucy discovers her sister never returned to the workhouse. **9.00** **Southcote**. Claire struggles to accept her daughter's death. Paul tries to compensate for the bad husband and father he has been, and David's secret about Morton begins to take hold of him. **10.00** **Film: The Number 23**. (2007) Premiere. A man develops a deadly fixation with the number 23 after reading a novel with startling similarities to his own life. Thriller, starring Jim Carrey and Virginia Madsen. **12.00** **Film: Vanilla Sky**. (2001) **2.15** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **3.10** Secret Esters. (R) **4.05** Deal or No Deal: Deafest. (R) **5.00** Countdown. (R) **5.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fill and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Subbie Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pajamas. (R) **7.20** Castle Farm. (R) **7.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Mio Mio. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. **10.00** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **10.10** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.40** Sluggers. **11.05** Highland Emergency. (R) **11.35** Big Brother. (R) **12.30** BB BOTS: Ryan's Supersized Celebrity Sunday. **1.30** Tinker Bell. (2008) **5.30** **Film: Fievel Goes West**. (1991) **4.00** **Film: Tinker Bell**. (2008) **5.30** **Film: Open Season 2**. (2008) **6.55** **5.55** **News Weekend**. **7.00** **Crickets: The Ashes**. England v Australia. **8.00** **Once Upon a Time**. Neal's fiancée Tamara reveals her true colours. **9.00** **Big Brother**. Daily round-up of highlights. **10.00** **Film: Shoot 'Em Up**. (2007) Action adventure, starring Clive Owen. **11.45** **Film: The Detonator**. (2006) **1.25** SuperCasino. **4.00** **Wildlife SOS**. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** The Hotel Inspector Returns. (R) **5.05** Hanna's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hanna's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Shoplife **8.00** Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **8.15** **Film: Shanghai Noon** (2000) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Badtuts **11.15** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 The Wonder of Weeds **8.00** Edinburgh Festival: A Review Show Special **9.00** Seven Ages of Starlight **10.30** Natural World: Polar Bears and Grizzlies - Bears on Top of the World **11.20** Alan Whicker's Journey of a Lifetime
ITV2
3.10 **Film: What a Girl Wants** (2003) **5.10** **Film: Step Up 2: The Streets** (2008) **7.15** **Film: Johnny English** (2003) **9.00** **Film: Troy** (2004) Epic adventure, starring Brad Pitt.
ITV3
2.55 Lewis **6.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** **Film: Something's Gotta Give** (2003) **11.40** A Touch of Frost
ITV4
3.55 **Film: Flash Gordon** (1980) **6.10** **Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol** (1987) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union Sevens **9.00** **Film: Raging Bull** (1980) **11.40** **Film: How I Met Your Mother** **5.30** The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** **Film: New Girl** **8.00** **Film: 27 Dresses** (2008). Romantic comedy, starring Katherine Heigl and James Marsden. **10.10** The Inbetweeners **10.40** **Film: Rise - Part Two** **11.40** Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23
Film4
3.10 The Towering Inferno (1974) **6.20** Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (2010) **9.00** Die Hard 4.0 (2007) **11.30** House of Flying Daggers (2004)

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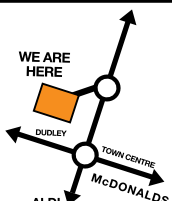
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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

A Time to Remember, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A middle-aged single mother returns under a cloud to the family home for Thanksgiving, where she tries to heal the fractured relationship between herself and her estranged mother. However, any possible reconciliation is threatened by an unexpected and dramatic development. Drama, starring Dana Delany, Doris Roberts, Megan Gallagher and Louise Fletcher. (2003)

TUESDAY

Murder Among Friends, Channel 5, 3.10pm

A would-be actress resolves to prove her friend is innocent of murdering his own father for an inheritance. She enlists the aid of a washed-up private eye whose career has been destroyed by a lawsuit. Detective thriller, starring Greg Evigan. (2001)

WEDNESDAY

Class, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A wealthy law student has to complete a public service course to finish his degree, so he reluctantly accepts the task of representing a working-class single mother who is struggling to support her sick child. At first the lawyer and client distrust each other, but a close connection ultimately develops. Romantic drama, starring Jodi Lyn O'Keefe and Eric Roberts. (2010)

A Lot Like Love, BBC1, 11.35pm

Two bored travellers instantly bond, but their fledgling relationship suffers too many setbacks. They agree to split up, but their plans to separate are foiled by a series of unexpected reunions as fate repeatedly throws them back together. Romantic comedy, starring Ashton Kutcher, Amanda Peet and Aimee Garcia. (2005)

THURSDAY

Proof, BBC1, 11.35pm

A woman mourns the death of her father, a brilliant professor whose genius deteriorated as he succumbed to dementia. Afraid of sharing his fate, she shies away from human contact – until one of his former students uncovers an unknown mathematical theorem that will have ramifications for both their futures. Drama, with Gwyneth Paltrow and Anthony Hopkins. (2005)



DOA: Dead or Alive, Friday, ITV, 10.35pm

FRIDAY

DOA: Dead or Alive, ITV, 10.35pm

Three female martial arts experts – a jewel thief, a wrestler and a ninja princess – are invited to compete in a secret fighting tournament. But when the rivals realise the mastermind behind the tournament has sinister plans for them, they have to work together to survive. Action adventure, based on the videogame series of the same name, with Jaime Pressly, Devon Aoki and Holly Valance. (2006)

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Pick of the Week

David hopes his new role is a class apart

When he's not swimming for charity, scooping out variety acts on Britain's Got Talent, or writing children's books, David Williams is a brilliant comedy actor.

Despite the fact he's not done anything comedic on our screens for a while, his CV is crammed with classic moments, characters and catchphrases.

And Williams makes a welcome return to our screens tonight, albeit without Little Britain sidekick Matt Lucas, disappointingly, in this new six-part sitcom.

Despite many of us stating our happiest and most amusing days were those we spent at school, the classroom has been a relatively untapped resource of material for comedy writers until recent years.

However, following the runaway success of The Inbetweeners and the promise of the Jack Whitehall vehicle Bad Education in recent years, the Beeb have commissioned another classroom comedy.

Just like the latter, Big School is set in and around a dysfunctional staff room, and also like Bad Education,

there is a story of unrequited love between two of the teachers at the centre.

Williams explains: "I wanted to do something a bit like Remains Of The Day – the story of these two servants who were in love with each other but they can't quite express it."

"I was thinking what could be the modern take on that? I thought well a school's quite a good environment because you don't get any privacy at school."

"There's always corridors teeming with kids, staff rooms, dining rooms, whatever. So I thought that could be a rather good setting and I thought it's a universal experience that 99 per cent of us went to school, or have got kids at school."

Williams plays 40-something Deputy Head of Chemistry Mr Church, who is about to resign from Greyfriars following a particularly dramatic experiment with liquid nitrogen and 1000 ping pong balls. But the arrival of new French teacher Miss Postern changes his mind.

"They're quite suited to each other in some ways that you think well who

else is going to have you," says Catherine Tate, who plays Miss Postern.

"The seed is planted at the beginning for Mr Church. He's quite taken with her and of course she's quite flattered that someone could go to such lengths."

"It's nice that throughout the series he makes quite grand gestures that of course all fall completely flat on their face. But everyone likes a grand gesture."

Although some of the characters may appear clichéd, the top-notch cast makes the staff of Big School a bit more believable and funny than the aforementioned Bad Education. One of these is lothario PE teacher Mr Gurn (Philip Glenister) who makes no secret of wanting to "plough" the new member of staff, prompting Mr Church to take advice from a pupil on how to succeed with women in tonight's opening episode.

However, Mr Church's phone doesn't send picture messages, so he can't follow Maryon's first suggestion, so that just leaves the option of offering Miss Postern a lift home.



David Williams stars in Big School, Friday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

My Cyberstalking Hell: Liz McClarnon Channel 5, 10pm

Liz McClarnon rose to fame in girl group Atomic Kitten, and she's enjoying the limelight a second time round since reuniting with her fellow bandmates for The Big Reunion. Of course we've seen her ever-smiley face pop up in TV presenting slots over the years as well, but this one-off programme tells of how often Liz's smile may have been painted on – because behind it all, she was suffering at the hands of a stalker. So after feeling so threatened for her safety, she's on a mission to raise awareness of how serious stalking can be. She trawls through some of the messages she received which ranged from cheeky, to threatening sexual assault, before she meets other people who have had similar experiences.

TUESDAY

On the Run ITV, 9pm

The next hour of viewing isn't going to be the most light-hearted you've ever seen, but it's certainly interesting, and nothing like anything else on the box at the moment. The one-off documentary follows a manhunt trying to track down three wanted criminals – yep, they're on the run – so they can be brought to justice. Presented by Mark Williams-Thomas and Natasha Kaplinsky, we get a rare insight into how their undercover team trace and with the help of the police, apprehend those on the run from the law. Of these three wanted men, one is a sex offender, one a violent fugitive and the other a burglar and car thief, but surely they won't be running for long...

You're Killing My Son: The Mum Who Went on the Run Channel 4, 9pm

In 2012, seven-year-old Neon Roberts was diagnosed with a brain tumour leading to doctors prescribing potentially life-saving radiotherapy treatment. Before they could go through with it, however, his mum, Sally, disappeared along with the boy – she felt that an alternative therapy was the best option and was willing to go to extreme lengths to do what she felt was in Neon's best interests. This documentary, shown as part of the Cutting Edge strand, tells the remarkable story of a family at odds with one another and the medical profession; of the courts that ruled against Sally and in favour of the treatment, and of the brave lad himself, who has had to endure no end of suffering due to his condition.

WEDNESDAY

Live International Football ITV, 7.30pm

England and Scotland face each other in this friendly match at Wembley Stadium, as they look horns for the first time since 1999, when they met at the old Wembley Stadium in the second leg of a Euro 2000 qualifying play-off. Although Scotland won 1-0 on that occasion it did not prove to be enough to prevent England claiming a place at the tournament, as Kevin Keegan's men had triumphed 2-0 in the first leg of the play-off

four days earlier at Hampden Park. The hosts will enter this contest as favourites, but the Scots will be determined to impress once again after claiming a surprise 1-0 victory away to Croatia in a World Cup qualifier last time out.

I'm Spazticus

Channel 4, 10.50pm

Given how caught up with political correctness we are as a nation, there's every chance you've clocked the title of this hidden camera show and recoiled in horror. And that's fine – so long as you give the programme ten minutes of your time to prove you're right. Because, actually, this is an amusing take on a prank show that pokes fun at that idea of the politically correct.

With so much hype surrounding the first series when it aired last year, those ratings can't be wrong. For the uninitiated, cameras follow the pranksters as they wind up members of the public in a unique and hilarious way. First up, unsuspecting celebrities are fooled into endorsing a bizarre new charity for amputees.



My Cyberstalking Hell: Liz McClarnon, Monday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY

My Dwarf Family ITV, 9pm

Roughly one in 25,000 children are born with achondroplasia, the most common form of dwarfism every year, and this programme delves into how it affects family life. Following three families who each have to deal with the effects of achondroplasia, it gives us an honest glimpse into life with the limiting condition. Gillian is a small mother who is keen to protect her small 13-year-old daughter from the issues she faced as a teenager. Meanwhile, Rebecca is hoping her dwarfism won't in any way jeopardise her chances of starting a family with Ben, an average height man. And Phil has a tough love approach to preparing his small son Paddy for secondary school.

FRIDAY

The Burrowers BBC2, 9pm

You can always rely on Chris Packham to shine a spotlight on the nation's underappreciated wildlife. With this new three-part documentary series, he's going underground to investigate the lives of some of our subterranean mammals, including water voles, rabbits, badgers and moles. It's no mean feat, as the nature of their burrows, warrens, setts and dens means they're not exactly easy environments in which to film – so to combat the problem, Chris and the BBC's nature team use full-scale replicas of their habitats. Worthy of particular note is the world's largest man-made rabbit warren – it was made by pouring concrete into an abandoned warren, before returning months later to excavate it.

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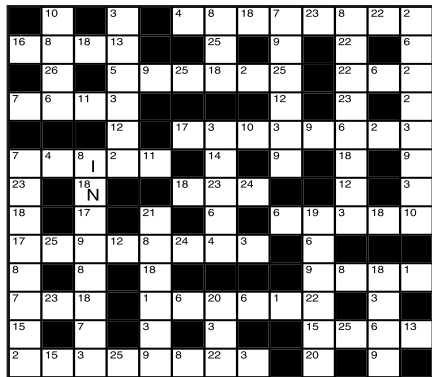
What's On!

Brain Gym

No.233

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

W	Z	X	V	F	K	P	Q	Y	R	T	D	H
G	M	N	L	O	B	E	C	A	U	J	S	I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

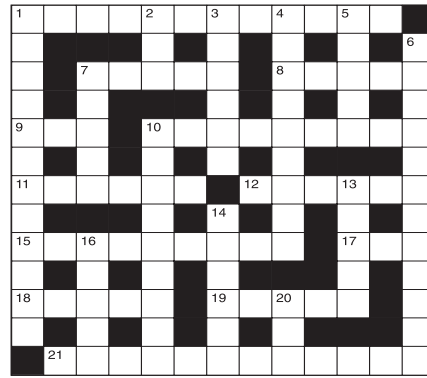
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Flawless defence, yet speedily broken (5,7)
7. Takes a girl out some fruit (5)
8. Post and ante, perhaps (5)
9. One is confused for a long time (3)
10. Emphatically not at home! (3,3,3)
11. Small village made famous by Shakespeare (6)
12. Put into a grave position, because of a wrong note to a doctor? (6)
15. It knows no customs (4,5)
17. I have a fifty-fifty arrangement? Well, no! (3)
18. Composer of large variations (5)
19. Verbal criticism of the show (5)
21. Don't try to improve on a perfectly good water supply? (3,4,5)

Down

1. He works at intervals (5-7)
2. When small I need it (3)
3. They're worth something as groups (6)
4. A sound quality (9)
5. Time to muse (5)
6. Induced to become religious? (3,2,7)
7. Study I'm making of fabric (5)
10. Knock down and defeat (9)
13. Describes a branch of the peace movement (5)
14. A gunsmith adds it to his stock (6)
16. Unusual glee about a good golf score (5)
20. By way of a Roman road (3)



Quick Clues:

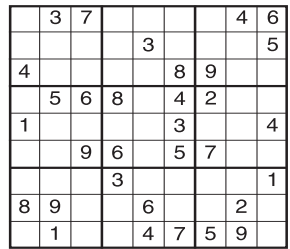
Across

1. Agitation (12)
7. Supple (5)
8. Eat way (5)
9. Arid (3)
10. Spin on tiptoe (9)
11. Fearful (6)
12. Specimen (6)
15. Depravity (9)
17. Age (3)
18. Conduct (5)
19. Hackneyed (5)
21. Break (12)

Down

1. Drawback (12)
2. On strike (3)
3. Verse (6)
4. Theorise (9)
5. Henhouse (5)
6. Loss of speed (12)
7. Stratum (5)
10. Prerogative (9)
13. Bit (5)
14. Inspection (6)
16. Rule (5)
20. Little devil (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	3	7	1	9	2	6	8	5
5	9	1	6	7	8	3	4	2
6	8	2	3	5	4	9	7	1
7	4	9	5	3	6	2	1	8
2	1	6	4	8	7	5	3	9
8	5	3	9	2	1	7	6	4
9	2	4	8	6	3	1	5	7
1	6	5	7	4	9	8	2	3
3	7	8	2	1	5	4	9	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Adipose; 8 Litter; 9 Astride; 10 Untold; 11 Ranker; 12 Hardware; 18 Massacre; 20 Butane; 21 Parrot; 22 Stamped; 23 Person; 24 Redress. Down: 1 Sleuths; 2 Stature; 3 Yellow; 5 Distress; 6 Poring; 7 Sadden; 13 Ammeter; 14 Actress; 15 Setting; 16 Bustle; 17 Hammer; 19 Seamen. QUICK - Across: 4 Al-tract; 8 Needed; 9 Missile; 10 Regard; 11 Indeed; 12 Stirring; 18 Optional; 20 Propel; 21 Sprain; 22 Radiate; 23 Brogue; 24 Depends. Down: 1 Undress; 2 Penguin; 3 Terror; 5 Twilight; 6 Reside; 7 Caller; 13 Isolated; 14 Enlarge; 15 Slender; 16 Ornate; 17 Sprite; 19 Impact.



Good Night Ring

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Simon B

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Hong Kong and the treasures of Thailand

THIS escorted holiday combines Hong Kong and Bangkok, with a stay on the bank of the River Kwai followed by the chance to rest and relax in a beach-side resort.

The first part of the holiday is spent in Hong Kong where there is plenty of time to explore this extraordinary place. There are also two optional excursions on offer. A Hong Kong Island tour, which will highlight some of the main attractions and a visit to the former Portuguese colony of Macau, located 40 miles across the Pearl River Delta.

An internal flight takes you to Bangkok where there is an included guided tour of this wonderful city followed by a khlong canal cruise. You will also be taken to the floating markets at Damnoen Saduak and the 70-acre Rose Garden on another included excursion.

Perhaps the highlight of the holiday will be the included River Kwai and 'Death Railway' excursion, journeying on the train to Nam Tok Sai Yok Noi on the infamous route through the Thai jungle.

Finally you arrive at the picture postcard resort of Cha-Am, set beside the blue waters of the Gulf of Thailand where you can relax and enjoy this beachside hotel. Again two optional excursions are offered to nearby Hua Hin, the favourite holiday resort of the Thai Royal family, and the riverside town of Phetchaburi.



FROM £1,599*

12 days Various departure dates

Price includes

- Return flights and internal flight
- Nine nights hotel accommodation including six breakfasts and one lunch
- Full-day Bangkok City tour and Klong Cruise
- Full day guided visit including the Bridge over the River Kwai and the Death Railway
- Free time in Hong Kong and Cha-Am Beach Resort
- Air-conditioned coach travel overseas
- Services of a tour manager overseas

Single rooms subject to availability

* various according to departure dates please go to website for the latest prices and availability

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Rio Ferdinand
Testimonial Match

Friday 9 August 2013

David Moyes' Manchester United will face Sevilla at Old Trafford on Friday, 9 August in Rio Ferdinand's testimonial match. The 34-year-old will start his 12th season at the club with a showpiece match against the La Liga side ahead of the Reds' Community Shield clash with Wigan Athletic.

- A match ticket with a face value of £25 (plus booking fee) for Rio Ferdinand's testimonial match against Sevilla at Old Trafford on Friday 9 August 2013
- Return coach travel from Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall & Wolverhampton



MAN UTD V SEVILLA

Match tickets are subject to general sale and will be seated with the home fans.

To book call: **01524 37500** quote WOL
or book online at www.starextra.reader.travel

Organised by Omega Events Ltd, ABTA Y590X. Subject to availability.

Property

Detached family home near conservation area



This large detached family home in Leapgate Avenue, Stourport-on-Severn, is on the market for offers of £239,950

A FOUR-BEDROOM detached family home in Leapgate Avenue, Stourport-on-Severn, built by Morris Homes, is for sale priced at £239,950.

On the Hartlebury side of Stourport, the property is conveniently placed for the town centre and nearby Hartlebury Park conservation area, and has a reception hall and cloakroom, lounge, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, utility, four bedrooms - one en suite - bathroom, integral garage and

parking, rear gardens, gas central heating and double glazing.

The lounge, 19ft 7in by 11ft, has a fire surround with pebble effect gas fire, double doors to the dining room measuring 10ft 5in by 9ft 4in and door to a breakfast area, which in turn has patio doors to the garden.

Extractor

The kitchen has a range of wall and base units, work surfaces, eye level double oven and grill, four ring gas hob with stainless steel extractor over, one and a half stainless steel sink with drainer and mixer tap, integrated dishwasher and refrigerator.

The utility has a range of wall and base units, stainless steel sink drainer and mixer tap and space and plumbing for washing machine and tumble dryer.

On the first floor the main bedroom has a white en suite with shower cubicle, pedestal wash hand basin and WC and there are three more bedrooms and a house bathroom in white with panelled bath and shower over, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

Outside is double parking to the garage with lawns to the side, while the rear garden has a paved path, lawns and shrubs.

Call Allan Morris & Jones on 01299 825522 for further details.

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HALESOWEN ROAD, HALESOWEN



Extended & detached 4 double bed home
Refitted breakfast kitchen, 2 reception rms
Conservatory, d/s shower room & WC
Refitted family bathroom
Garage & driveway to front
Southerly rear garden. EPC rating:
£349,950 Ref: D1342

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, OLDBURY



Extended 5 bedroom semi-detached home
Fitted breakfast kitchen & lounge diner
5 good bedrooms with separate shower
Block paved driveway & integral garage
Private landscaped and lawned garden
GCH and majority UPVC double glazing
£220,000 Ref: D1197

PERRY HILL LANE, OLDBURY



Character 2 bed semi-det home
Fitted kitchen & 2 reception rooms
Refitted bathroom with white suite
Driveway to front & lawned rear garden
UPVC dble glazing & gas central heating
EPC rating: D
£147,500 Ref: D944

STEWARTS ROAD, HALESOWEN



Large 2 double bed home with garage
14ft lounge & 17ft8 kitchen diner
Lawn gardens to front & rear
Gas central heating & majority upvc DG
No upward chain EPC rating: C
£110,995 Ref: D1341

AVERY MYERS CLOSE, OLDBURY



Modern home in cul-de-sac location
13ft lounge leading to 12ft conservatory
Kitchen to front
2 double bedrooms & bathroom on 1st floor
Driveway to side & garden to rear
GCH & majority upvc DG. EPC rating: D
£105,995 Ref: D1343

MELVILLE ROAD, EDGBASTON



4th floor apartment with 2 double bedrooms
17ft9 lounge diner with balcony
Refitted 11ft kitchen
Lift access, communal gardens & parking
Gas central heating & upvc DG
EPC rating C
£99,950 Ref: D1336

RODBOURNE ROAD, HARBORNE



Spacious ground floor maisonette
Rear garden & parking to front
Kitchen & 14ft10 lounge with bay window
Double bedroom & bathroom
Gas central heating & double glazing fitted
Cul-de-sac location EPC rating: D
£94,950 Ref: D1337

RAMSAY ROAD, OLDBURY



Much improved 3 bed semi with parking
Refitted breakfast kitchen, lounge, utility
3 bedrooms & refitted bathroom
Enclosed rear garden with sunny aspect,
UPVC DGB, GCH
No upward chain EPC rating D
£144,950 Ref: D1315

MERTON CLOSE, OLDBURY



Spacious 2/3 bed home in cul-de-sac
Refitted breakfast kitchen & lounge diner
Downstairs wc & 2nd floor family bathroom
Driveway to front & private garden to rear
UPVC DG & GCH
EPC rating: D
£109,995 Ref: D1287

BROADWAY COURT, OLDBURY



Ground floor flat with allocated parking
Secure gated development, intercom entry
19'8 open plan living accommodation
Double bedroom with built in wardrobes
Bathroom with white suite & shower
Electric heating, UPVC DGB, epc rating c
£89,995 Ref: D1308

ABBAY ROAD, SMETHWICK



3 bed semi with garage & parking
Close to warley park & oldbury border
Two reception rooms, kitchen
Front & enclosed rear garden
Benefitting DGB & gas central heating
No upward chain. EPC rating: E
£159,950 Ref: D1296

WOODBURY ROAD, HALESOWEN



LET AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY - 3 bed
Wide corner plot with parking & garage
24ft lounge/dining room & kitchen
3 bedrooms & bathroom, DGB & GCH
UNFURNISHED - NO DSS OR PETS
EPC Rating: D
£650pcm Ref: DL137

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Halesowen Office



HALESOWEN, Bromsgrove Road £875 pcm
Located in the desirable area of Romsley. This unfurnished semi detached house features gas central heating, modern and spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, loft space, front & rear gardens, garage, fantastic views. Viewing strongly recommended.



HALESOWEN, Carters Lane £750 pcm
A 3 bedroomed semi-detached house, situated on a large corner position in the popular area of Lapal. Featuring 3 double bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, bathroom with separate shower, double glazed, garage, driveway for 4 cars and large gardens extending to the side.



HALESOWEN, Jimara, Feldon Lane £695 pcm
An extended traditional semi-detached house with plenty of space. Comprising a large living room, separate dining room, study, 2 double bedrooms, 1 large single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, kitchen with appliances, separate utility room, downstairs wc, driveway for 3 cars.



SELLY OAK, Corisande Road £650 pcm
A 3 bedroom semi detached house in a popular location with bus links to Birmingham City Centre, close proximity to Birmingham University and GE Hospital. Features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom shower. Walking distance to Selly Oak Park.



HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place £650 pcm
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.



HALESOWEN, Wroxley House £625 pcm
Luxury living in Hayley Green. This luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.



BARTLEY GREEN, Hunnington Close £600 pcm
Modern 3 bedroom mid-terrace house in quiet cul-de-sac, close to shops and transport. Large lounge with feature fireplace, fully fitted kitchen with appliances, private rear mature garden, 2 doubles and 1 single bedroom, white bathroom with 'P' bath and shower. Garage en bloc.



HALESOWEN, Holt Road £595 pcm
A nicely presented refurbished end terrace home, close to local shops. Featuring 3 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with white goods, bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage, unfurnished.



HALESOWEN, Linden Avenue £595 pcm
Situated in a quiet cul de sac location. A spacious detached bungalow offering good sized accommodation having 2 reception rooms, open plan breakfast/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom, good sized rear garden, garage/driveway parking. Available now.



STOURBRIDGE, Gooch Close £565 pcm
Well presented 3 bedroom refurbished semi-detached house in this quiet cul de sac on the Penfields estate. Featuring a large kitchen/diner, large lounge, fireplace, patio doors leading to a southerly aspect covered terrace area, guest cloakroom, family bathroom with shower, 2 double & 1 large single bedroom.



HALESOWEN, Clent View Road £550 pcm
Excellent value for money. This exceptionally large home in a very popular location close to local shops and buses to Halesowen and Stourbridge. Close to Colley Lane Primary School, briefly featuring 3 double bedrooms, through lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens.



ROWLEY REGIS, Clent View £535 pcm
A fantastic opportunity to rent a brand new property on a select development. 'Clent View' features 2 bedrooms. Finished to an exceptional standard. These homes feature spacious lounges with patio doors leading to a low maintenance garden, modern kitchen, family bathroom with shower.



CRADLEY HEATH, Unit Drive £525 pcm
An unfurnished modern mid terrace house close to Old Hill shops and train station. This lovely home features gas central heating, downstairs wc, fitted kitchen, living room, master bedroom with en-suite bathroom, 2nd bedroom with en-suite shower room, enclosed rear garden, parking space.



HALESOWEN, Stewarts Road £495 pcm
A 2 bed unfurnished semi detached home situated in a quiet location, and close to local bus routes and shops. Featuring a large dining lounge, fitted kitchen, guest w.c. 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking, front and rear gardens.



HALESOWEN, Howley Grange Road £495 pcm
Modern and comfortable living. A 2nd floor apartment within easy access to Dudley, Tipton and the M5. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, modern kitchen, white bathroom suite with shower, spacious lounge with patio doors opening to a Juliet balcony, electric heating, double glazing, garage.



NETHERTON, Round Street £475 pcm
Situated on a very popular road, and a short walk from local shops and bus links. This re-decorated unfurnished semi detached house features gas central heating, cosy living room, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, driveway parking.



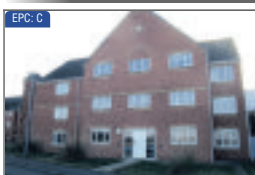
HALESOWEN, Highfield Road £475 pcm
Deceptively large semi-detached house, close to local shops and buses to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Cradley Heath featuring 2 good sized lounges, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, nice size rear garden, on road parking. Available now.



DUDLEY, Anchor Drive £475 pcm
A modern top floor apartment, in the centre of Old Hill with local bus stop outside and Old Hill train station close by. This apartment comprises of 1 double bedroom, electric storage heating, double glazing, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, allocated parking.



WORDSLEY, John Street £450 pcm
Close to local buses to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and a short walk from Ambleside. This 2 double bedroom terraced house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, on road parking and an enclosed rear garden.



TIPTON, Ferguson Drive £450 pcm
A lovely modern 1st floor apartment, which is ideally located for Wednesbury and Dudley. This great apartment features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, 2 allocated parking spaces, communal gardens.

Property

Idyllic countryside views from lodges



Four timber lodges at the Catsley Farm Chalet site are priced at £149,000, ideal for 12-month occupancy holiday lets

AN EXCLUSIVE new development of just four timber holiday lodges in a beautiful location with breathtaking views are going on the market priced at £149,000.

First on the market is Plot 1, Kinlet View, Catsley Farm Chalet Site, Bewdley, measuring 40ft by 20ft and with a 19ft lounge, open plan kitchen/dining room with comprehensive range of appliances, three bedrooms and bathroom.

With 12 month holiday occupancy permitted, the site is reserved for over 40s with site fees of £1,800 a year to cover ground rent, maintenance of communal areas and shared water and septic tank arrangements.

Purchasers of plots two, three and four will have the

option to discuss the final specification with the site owner as the Tingdene lodges can normally be completed to order with certain optional extras.

Plot 1 is already sited with to the front a full width decked balcony and the lounge opening out to the balcony, while in the kitchen integral appliances include Baumatic fridge/freezer, dishwasher, electric oven, canopy hood, ceramic hob and washing machine.

The bathroom has a white suite of bath with mixer shower over and screen, vanity unit with wash hand basin and WC.

Call Allan Morris & Jones on 01299 400555 for further details.

Offers of £425,000 are sought for 5-bed house

A DELIGHTFUL five-bedroom property in Pedmore with self-contained accommodation that could create a ground floor bedroom with en suite and second kitchen/laundry is on the market with a price guide of £425,000.

The house - Ham Leigh in Old Ham Lane - is ideally situated for Stourbridge Junction railway station and amenities within Oldswinford and Stourbridge town centre, as well as for commuting by road, and near to local schools. The property has a large block paved driveway with a detached double garage, with the landscaped garden having a paved patio and lawn with dwarf wall.

Surround

On the ground floor is an impressive reception hall with fitted guest cloakroom, as well as a dining room with access to a home office and a rear lounge with feature fire surround and patio doors to the rear garden.

The kitchen/breakfast room has a range of base and wall units with integrated oven and five burner hob, and a defined family area.

There is also a second kitchen with



The house called Ham Leigh in Old Ham Lane is ideally situated for the station

access to the front and rear of the property, ground floor bedroom with en suite bathroom with corner bath and separate rain head shower.

Call the agent Lee, Shaw, on 01384

On the first floor are four bedrooms 396066 for further details or to arrange and a white en suite, plus large house viewing.

Open day for prospective buyers of spacious semi in Rowley Regis

AN OPEN day is being held on Saturday August 17 at a spacious three bedroom semi-detached house in Highfield Road, Rowley Regis.

It is on the market for offers of £175,000 with no upward chain.

Renovated and extended by the present occupiers, the property also has a bathroom, two reception rooms, large kitchen/diner, utility area, ground floor WC, off road parking, garden with lawn and patio area, gas central heating and double glazing. On the ground floor the lounge, 12ft 4in by 15ft 4in, has a gas fire in feature surround while the dining room/reception room two measuring 15ft 1in by 9ft 4in has an archway to a kitchen diner - 27ft 4in by 8ft 6in - with a range of wall and base units, work surfaces, one and a

half bowl stainless steel sink drainer, space for appliances with cooker hood over, built-in dishwasher, space for dining table and archway to a utility area with cupboards, work surfaces, plumbing for washing machine, space for appliances and door to WC with toilet and wash hand basin.

Patio

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a newly fitted bathroom with bath with shower over, WC and vanity wash hand basin.

Outside the rear garden has a patio area with steps up to a lawn and gate through to rear parking.

Call the agent the intelligent move on 0121 500 6012 for further details or to arrange a viewing.



The extended Highfield Road property

Halesowen Office: Lettings & Property Management 0121 585 6688

Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Chevrolet's getting on right Trax

By David Banner

IT WAS way back in the mid-1930s that Chevrolet introduced the motoring world to its very first sports utility vehicle – the Carryall Suburban. And now 78 years later, the company is aiming to make a similar impact on the compact SUV market with the dynamic looking Trax.

Entering such a fiercely competitive segment and taking on the likes of the established Nissan Qashqai and Juke is a brave move and suggests Chevrolet has every confidence in the Trax.

And why not indeed? Because this beautifully crafted model with its bold, ready-for-action stance is packed with technical wizardry, offers excellent economy and boasts driving dynamics to match.

Elegant
In fact, the Trax could be the perfect model for anyone who wants all the benefits of a full-blooded SUV combined with the handling and economy of a smaller car.

The vehicle is an instant attention-grabber thanks to its elegant styling. It features muscular rear haunches, pronounced wheel arches, a rear spoiler, sweeping light clusters and a double grille with Chevrolet's iconic bowtie emblem sitting proudly in the middle.

Buyers can select from two trim levels – LS and LT – and both come with a whole host of techno treats as standard, which is a real bonus as many manufacturers rake up the asking price of vehicles with a selection of optional extras.

But that's not the case with the Trax which starts from



Look at me – the new Chevrolet Trax is an instant attention-grabber thanks to its elegant styling

just £15,495 and rises to £20,495. There is a choice of engines – a 1.4-litre turbo and 1.6-litre petrol versions, and a 1.7-litre turbo diesel version.

An automatic transmission is available on the diesel Trax and all manual models are fitted with a start/stop function to maximise fuel efficiency.

In addition, many models are equipped with Chevrolet's highly efficient intelligent all-wheel-drive system which

means never being caught out by one of Mother Nature's bad mood swings. The interior is light and spacious with all dials and controls perfectly positioned for driver usability. It has an ultra-modern and chic feel to it and Chevrolet has introduced a state-of-the-art system called MyLink which means occupants can stay connected to their media devices on the go.

There is a very competitively-priced app that can be

downloaded called BRINGGO which does exactly that and brings sat nav capabilities to the Trax. Such innovative technology is exactly what buyers demand these days and Chevrolet appears to have delivered on all counts with MyLink. So the Trax looks full of charm and charisma, has sufficient on-board technology to keep the geekish of techies amused for hours and has room to accommodate five adults with plenty of scope for luggage.

In fact, the boot offers 1,370 litres of storage space with the rear seats folded flat.

But how does the Trax perform when confronted with sharp mountain inclines, fast motorways and even off-road challenges? The answer is... admirably.

We put a couple of models that Chevrolet believes will be the biggest sellers through their paces and they didn't disappoint. First up was the 1.4-litre petrol turbo model in range-topping LT trim with six-speed manual gearbox priced at £19,795.

This car can reach 62mph from a standing start in 9.8 seconds and tops out at 121mph.

It can deliver 44.1mpg on a combined run and has carbon emissions of 149g/km.

With ample power on tap, the Trax easily dealt with winding roads and acceleration was smooth and rapid through the gears.

There was very little roll and minimal road surface and engine noise. Comfort levels were excellent and any obstacles put in its path were overcome with ease.

We even took the vehicle off-road and it coped effortlessly with a gravelled course that included a number of tricky climbs.

Next up was the more frugal 1.7-litre turbo diesel model with its combined fuel efficiency of 57.6mpg and emissions of 129g/km. This car, again in LT trim and priced at £20,495, can sprint from 0-62mph in 9.4 seconds and has a top speed of 114mph.

Your essential guide to the world of motoring

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*Model shown is a Trax 1.6 LT priced at £17,495 OTR. Vehicle shown features metallic paint at an extra cost of £445. Price correct at time of print.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Trax Range: Urban 34.4 (8.2) – 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban 50.4 (5.6) – 70.6 (4.0), Combined 43.4 (6.5) – 62.7 (4.5) CO₂ emissions 153 – 120g/km. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.



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0958	CORSA CLUB 1.3CDTi 5DR AIR BLUE 30,000 MILES.....	£6495	£6295
0909	CORSA ACTIVE 1.3CDTi 5DR METRO BLUE 48,500 MILES.....	SOLD	
0959	CORSA SXi 1.416V 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 25,000 MILES.....	£6995	
1059	CORSA DESIGN 1.416V 3DR AIR BLUE 21,000 MILES.....	£6995	£6295
1010	CORSA ENERGY 1.216V 3DR SILVER LIGHTNING 8,500 MILES.....	SOLD	
1010	CORSA SXi 1.416V 5DR STAR SILVER 16,000 MILES.....	SOLD	
1010	CORSA LIFE 1.216V 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 16,500 MILES.....	£6695	£6495
1010	CORSA ENERGY 1.216V 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 14,500 MILES.....	SOLD	
1010	CORSA SE 1.416V 5DR SILVER LAKE 37,000 MILES.....	£6895	
1010	CORSA Sri 1.416V 3DR GLACIER WHITE 34,000 MILES B'TOOTH.....	£7795	
1060	CORSA SE 1.416V 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 17,500 MILES.....	£7795	
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1111	CORSA EXCITE 1.0 12V 3DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 14,500 MILES.....	£7495	
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1161	CORSA LTD EDITION 1.2 16V RED/BLACK 17,500 MILES.....	£10495	£9995
1212	CORSA SXi 1.216V 3DR GLACIER WHITE 12,500 MILES.....	£8395	£7995
1212	CORSA SXi 1.4 16V 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 22,000 MILES.....	£7995	£7695
1212	CORSA SE 1.4 16V 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 13,500 MILES.....	£8750	£8495
1212	CORSA SE 1.4 16V 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 19,500 MILES.....	£8660	£8195
1212	CORSA SE 1.4 16V 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 17,500 MILES.....	£8730	£8295
1212	CORSA SE 1.416V 5DR SILVER LAKE 15,000 MILES.....	SOLD	
1212	CORSA SE 1.416V 5DR GLACIER WHITE 16,500 MILES.....	£9195	£8595
1262	CORSA SE 1.4 16V 5DR GLACIER WHITE 13,000 MILES.....	£9495	
1262	CORSA SE 1.4 16V 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 9,500 MILES.....	£9495	
1262	CORSA SE 1.4 16V 5DR GLACIER WHITE 13,000 MILES.....	£9495	
1262	CORSA Sri 1.4 16V 3DR FLAME RED 6,000 MILES.....	£9995	
1262	CORSA Sri 1.4 16V 3DR GLACIER WHITE 9,850 MILES SAT-NAV.....	£11495	
1313	CORSA LTD EDITION WHITE/RED BLACK CHOICE, DELIVERY MILES.....	£11495	

ASTRA

0808	ASTRA Sri XP 1.8 16V 5DR METRO BLUE 25,000 MILES.....	£7295	£6795
0959	ASTRA ACTIVE 1.8 16V AUTO 5DR STAR SILVER 32,500 MILES.....	SOLD	
0959	ASTRA Sri XP 1.8 16V 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 25,000 MILES.....	£7495	
1060	ASTRA Sri XP 1.8 16V 5DR STAR SILVER 30,500 MILES.....	£7995	
1161	NEW ASTRA ELITE 2.0CDTi AUTO 5DR SILVER LAKE 9,500 MILES.....	£11995	
1212	ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.4 16V 5DR TECHNICAL GREY 11,000 MILES.....	£9870	£9495
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Motoring

Swift move for Suzuki to fill a gap in market

By John Griffiths

SUZUKI has made its name as a maker of small cars and 4x4s, so it comes as a surprise that it's taken until now to combine the two.

But as traditional SUVs have grown larger and more expensive, there's a clear gap in the market for a car with all-weather ability that's cheaper to buy and run than many standard hatchbacks.

After all, by no means everyone who lives in the countryside is a millionaire, and for the environmentally conscious there are few greener alternatives, with fuel consumption averaging better than 50mpg.

So, enter the Suzuki Swift 4x4, based on the Japanese company's best-selling hatchback, which could be yours for a little over £12,600.

Kettle

Its main competitor is the Fiat Panda. Yes Suzuki still produces the Jimny but that's a different kettle of fish.

It's a more traditionally built 4x4, a sort of baby Vitara, but its accomplished off-road performance requires compromises which impact on its ride comfort and handling on the road. Not so the Swift 4x4: in fact from its appearance or driving experience you'd be hard pressed to spot any differences with the standard hatchback. Unless, that is, you pay an extra £1,000 for the top-of-the-range model with its special bodykit.

There are no levers or buttons to worry about.



Both of the Suzuki Swift 4x4 models are powered by a 1.2-litre petrol engine

The four-wheel drive system is fully automatic with a viscous coupling proportionally directing power to the rear wheels when the front ones start to slip. The coupling is little bigger than a clenched fist: in fact the whole 4x4 system adds just 65kg to the car's weight. The result is little impact on performance, just 5mpg less and a 10g/km increase in CO2 emissions.

The test drives took place in North Wales, with 20 miles or so of steep inclines and dirt tracks through the Berwyn Mountains, where first and second gears were the order of the day. It was pleasantly surprising to find we had averaged 42mpg, so 50mpg should be entirely feasible in day-to-day use. Both 4x4 models are powered by the Swift

range's 1.2-litre petrol engine, one of the most powerful in its class with 94PS on tap. With a 0 to 62mph time of 13.3 seconds it's a little slower off the mark than the standard hatchback. Yet it doesn't seem to struggle – its performance on the open road, and at motorway speeds, was something of a revelation with low noise levels and a civility which would be the envy of cars with much more power to spare. The extra 25mm ride height (to accommodate the 4x4 system and give those who venture off road a bit more ground clearance) doesn't seem to have affected the road holding or supple ride, either.

That's as it should be. This new Swift is not aimed at wannabe explorers, it's a car for those who need to drive come

rain, sleet or snow and who want the extra traction and security of four-wheel drive at an affordable price.

Suzuki is dipping its toes into a new market sector so – for the time being at least – there isn't the option of a 4x4 with the Swift range's 1.3-litre diesel engine. But with the petrol engine's economy, lower price and the petrol/diesel price differential that's only likely to be an issue for higher mileage drivers.

Standards

The 4x4 comes in five-door, five seat SZ3 and SZ4 grades, the two best-equipped models in the Swift range. List prices are £13,819 and £15,739 but – at least until September – Suzuki has included the new car in its 'VAT free' offer.

That works out At £12,616 and £13,116 respectively.

The SZ3 is well-equipped by class/price standards with ABS and other electronic braking systems, plus an electronic stability programme helping the four-wheel drive to keep you safe.

Front, side and curtain airbags are also standard, along with convenience features such as electric windows, driver's seat and steering wheel multi-adjustment, electrically-heated and adjustable door mirrors, manual air conditioning, and a radio/CD player with remote controls on the steering wheel.

Step up to the SZ4 and you also get automatic air conditioning, automatic headlamps and a 4x4 body kit. The wheel arch extensions, side skirts and front and rear skid plates emphasise the fact you've got the 4x4 version, as well as offering some protection over uneven ground.

Honda tops reliability table



Honda's HR-V – as the marque continues to dominate reliability tables

HONDA is the most reliable used car manufacturer in the UK for the eighth consecutive year, according to research by What Car? and Warranty Direct.

The Japanese brand topped the survey of 38 manufacturers and 50,000 live Warranty Direct policies on three to eight-year old vehicles.

Once again, Asian manufacturers dominated the study of the most reliable brands, with Suzuki and Hyundai second and third behind Honda. Only Chevrolet and Ford break the Far Eastern stranglehold of the top 10.

At the other end of the scale, luxury and prestige marques Bentley, Land Rover and Porsche are the most likely to break down – 86 per cent of Bentleys suffer a problem each year, making it Britain's least dependable car maker.

What Car? editor-in-chief Chas Hallett said: "Honda's success in the reliability stakes is down to low failure rates, and when cars do go wrong they're easy and cheap to fix."

"Reliability is one of the key attributes that buyers look for when looking to make a used purchase, so manufacturers that can demon-

strate that quality will always fare well.

"The manufacturers at the bottom end of the table could learn a thing or two from their Japanese counterparts."

Warranty Direct managing director Duncan McClure Fisher said: "Household budgets are already strained, so the last thing you want is a vehicle that costs you yet more unwanted bills."

"That is why it pays to research cars before you buy – make the wrong choice and you could land yourself with a car that causes you nothing but hassle and money."

Overall, the most reliable models are the Mitsubishi Lancer and Vauxhall Agila, both of which also star as the cheapest to repair. The least reliable model is the Audi RS6 but the iconic Porsche 911 is the most expensive to fix, with an eye-watering average repair bill of £1157.04.

Electrical faults are the most common across all cars, with almost a quarter (23.5 per cent) needing a visit to the garage in an average year. Axle and suspension faults are also common, affecting 22 per cent of cars. For full details see the latest issue of What Car?

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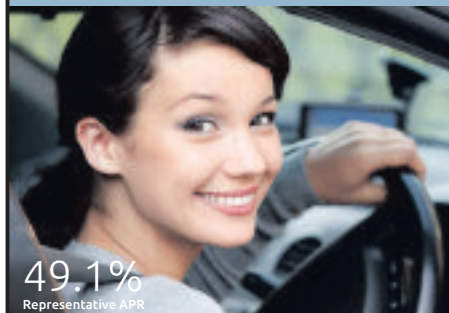
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- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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lost & found

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Microchipped, missing from Brinsford/Featherstone area on Sunday, July 21.

Call 07855 953705.

LOST - Ladies necklace, Penkridge area on Wednesday, July 31. Sentimental value. Reward. 01902 784811.

LOST - Yellow and white cockatiel, July 21, Halesowen / Quinton area, 07617 964087.



MISSING!
This is Daisy. She is just one year old and missing from Ettingshall Park. Microchipped. Desperate for news - good or bad.

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1 Family

baby needs

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elderly & disabled

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2 Leisure Time

bikes

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Static caravan 37ft x 12ft, 3 bedrooms, with decking, extras included, with fishing, Badgers Glade, Llanbrynmair, Mid Wales. Site fees paid. £5,000 ono.
07582 061207. No texts please.

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2 berth, Beachcomber 350/2, full awning, like new, cassette toilet, shower, h/c, power touch M3 Mover, Aqua roll, Wastemaster, pair of malencos. £1,700. 01952 462251.

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01384 373388.

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4 berth, 2002. With full awning. High spec. Alko hitch. Excellent condition throughout. Must be seen.
£4,950 ono.
07804 691833.

FOLDING CAMPER, Pennine Fiesta 4, full electrics and awning. Year 2000. Excellent condition. £2,200 ono. 01902 847238.

FORD TRANSIT converted to camper van, 54 reg, 10 months Mot, 1 months tax, viewing essential. £3,750 ono. 01902 268084.

FULL AWNING Suncamp Mirage, size 7 (810-835cm), poly acrylic green, used twice £1400 ono. 01384 254530.

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2007 BK BREEZE

28 x 12ft, 6 berth static caravan on the Welsh Coast, Clarch Bay, (SY23 3DT), 0.3 miles from beach, 2 bed, kitchen/living, shower/wc, gas CH, DG, appliances, crockery, cutlery pots and pans and some bedding included. Site has indoor pool, club house, shop and more. 2013 site fees paid.

£16,950 ono.

07974 506269.

STATIC CARAVAN
35ft x 12ft, sleeps six, excellent condition, quiet site Mid Wales, lovely views, large corner plot with 2 sheds, 2 fishing pools, fees paid for 2013.

01562 825825 / 07714 771740

SWIFT CHALLENGER 570, almost new, factory extras and comes with indoor storage, in the Lichfield area, £12,500. 01589 803257.

SWIFT Conqueror 630SAL, 2005, end bathroom, fixed bed, all equipment, very good condition throughout £8,750 ono 07971 667490.

SWIFT VENDEE
Static caravan, 35x12, 2 beds, sleeps 6, double glazed, central heated, galvanized chassis, new decking, sea views, New Quay, West Wales.
£15,000 ono.
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2010 STATIC
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£19,000 ono
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01902 744608 /

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holidays

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markets

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3 Home & Services

furniture

DINING TABLE, Travertine, with 6 chairs, and matching sideboard, £200. 01384 376141.

THREE DOOR display unit, excellent condition, £100 ono. 01902 687890.

THREE PIECE cream leather suite, 3 seater, 2 chairs, British made, 8 months old from new, bargain £450 ono. 07514 233670.

TWO SEATER leather settee, recliner, black, single leather recliner chair, excellent £250, nest of tables, £200. 01902 340906.

household appliances

BOSCH WASHING MACHINE, Bosch Maxx 1400 washing machine. £225. 07511 024570.

ESSE DRAGON gas log burner, natural gas or LPG, both conversions, immaculate condition, £650 ono. 07753 412107.

SAMSUNG Fridge/Freezer, stainless, immaculate, serviced, 70" H 26" D X 36" W, £170 ono. 07710 997291, 01922 415554.

in your garden

Top Soil, Building Sand Paving/Concrete Sand
Desertive Gravel
Delivered Bagged or Loose
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GARDEN ROTAVATOR princess 9nr 5 blade petrol, hardly used cost £515, sell £300. Champion petrol mower 148cc £70 07552 605123.

QUALCAST PETROL mower, fully serviced, hardly used, lovely condition. £85 ono. 01902 330903.

items for sale

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Tickets and other sports memorabilia.
Top prices paid for the right item.
Call Paul on 01543 251743.

WANTED Trailer for charity work. Must be 6ft x 4ft. Good condition. Cheap. Please phone 07580 912994.

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Cigarette and trade cards.
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Top prices paid for the right item.
Call Paul on 01543 251743.

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kitchens & bathrooms

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CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item.07429 453209/01902 830870

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances. Items large or small. Call: 01902 741546, 07917 679360 or 01384 468955.

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Classified Ads

guns & dogs

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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CAVALIERS and Cavaquos, adorable puppies. £395/£750. 07867 530504 (Bridgnorth).

ENGLISH SPRINGER spaniel puppies, liver and white, excellent pedigree, from working stock, make good worker or family pet. £250. 07788 243832.

FERRIS KITS for sale. Polecats and silver. Lovely coats/markings. Well handled. Make good pets or workers. £10. 07968 774909.

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01299 269181 or 07564 262371 www.forest-dog-rescue.org.uk

FOUR KITTENS 9 weeks old, 2 tortoiseshell, 1 black and white, £30 to ensure good homes. 07956 481026.

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BELLA 4yr old German Shepherd cross Lab.

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For info 01588 671006.

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TANK

Tank is an adorable chunky Staffie that lives up to his name. He is a six year old neutered Male Brindle that was made homeless when his previous owner lost his house and could no longer look after him.

Tank would love a forever home where he can have lots of walks or cuddles, he can be with other dogs but not small furrys.

If you think you could give tank or one of our other rescue Staffie and crosses, cats and kittens a home please contact 07838 905036 and 0121 249 2960 or 01588 671006.

TWO LONG HAired pure grey kittens, wormed and flea free. To see will buy. Gentle calm only please. £50 each. 07790 531984.

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vets

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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6 Property

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W-TON SUPERIOR student apartment, furnished, £100pw, inc all bills. 07877 60100. No DSS.

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Ian Parry 01938 811194.

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sales & marketing
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8 Motoring
cars over £1500
AUDI A3 S LINE 2.0 TDI 2008, Black, full MOT, tax, FSH, leather seating, unique leaded lights, tinted windows, remapped, incredible fuel consumption, all usual Audi extras, 1 NS lady owner, immaculate throughout. 07940 012098

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£58,000 ono.
07795 160773.

mobile homes
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 16V EXCLUSIV 5 door, hatchback, petrol, 2010, 80,000 miles, Vauxhall fsh, tax Dec 1 owner, non smoker silver, air con, parking sensors, electric windows. £8,195. 01299 828066.

VAUXHALL ASTRA BERTONE CONVERTIBLE 2002, silver, 9 months MOT, 5 months tax, 90,000 miles, electric roof, electronic windows, air bag, alarm, central locking, alloys, CD player. £1,595 ono. 07870 884108.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 DIESEL SPECIAL 06 reg. 126,000 miles, 80t Sept, no tax £1,850 ono. Telephone 07875 957457.

VAUXHALL CORSA Diesel, 59 reg. 5-dr, 6 months Tax and Mot. £1,900 ono. 01902 682321.

VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 54 plate, 47,000 miles, Mot and tax Septem, professional condition £1,900 ono. 07955 913054.

VW GOLF, diesel, 57 reg, long Mot and tax, excellent condition, £4,700. Telephone 07759 737894.

VW Lupo 1.4 Sport, 16, 04 reg. Mot April, silver, low running costs, professional, covered, young driver, 40k, £2,999. 07428 524391.

VW PASSAT ESTATE 1.9 Diesel Automatic, Highline, 05 reg, 69k, Mot/7tax, FSH, immaculate, 1st to see will buy. £3,995. 07850 330251

cars under £1500
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FIAT PUNTO 1.2 02 plate, m/tw June14, 5dr, face off CD, c/w remote, alloys. £600 ono. 01902 664017

FIAT PUNTO 5Dr, 1.2 53 Reg Mot April, tax October, 110k, excellent runner, clean condition, £695. 07587 344165.

FORD FIESTA Freestyle 2002, immaculate, AC, service history, tax, Mot, £495. 07953 852805.

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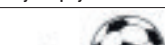
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Tributes to wing ace Waggy led by Jackett

WOLVES head coach Kenny Jackett has led the tributes to Molineux legend Dave Wagstaffe.

“Waggy” died on Tuesday at the age of 70 after a short illness, just hours before Wolves took to the field for their Capital One Cup first-round defeat at Morecambe.

Wolves players wore black armbands as a mark of respect for the winger, who played more than 400 game for the club in a 12-year spell from 1964.

Jackett said: “It’s a sad time for Wolves – Dave Wagstaffe was one of our former stars and he was a fantastic player for this club. “He should get all the plaudits and respect that he deserves.

“He was a tremendous footballer and a fantastic servant of Wolves. He will be a sad loss and his family have all our thoughts.”

Wolves are planning a full tribute to Waggy at Saturday’s first home game of the season against Gillingham.

A minute’s applause is being discussed with many former players and team-mates expected to be invited to pay their respects.

Grand Slam Whiley nets the full set

HALESOWEN’S Jordanne Whiley will complete a full set of Grand Slam career appearances early next month.

The British No.2 is among 20 players who will enter the US Open Wheelchair Tennis Competition, which takes place in New York on September 5 to 8.

Whiley will join her London 2012 bronze medal-winning doubles partner Lucy Shuker, Gordon Reid and Andy Lapthorne among the players from the Tennis Foundation’s Wheelchair Tennis Performance Programme who are set to contest all six wheelchair tennis events at a Grand Slam for the first time.

“It was such a great surprise to find out I had got in,” said world No. 8 Whiley. “With the top seven women earning automatic qualification and then one wild card being awarded, I knew last month’s British Open would be crucial.

“I’m very excited and am look forward to giving it my all.”

Odemwingie foreign switch ruled out



Peter Odemwingie

ALBION striker Peter Odemwingie has ruled out a move abroad and is ready to stay at The Hawthorns if he cannot seal a Premier League move.

Albion have rejected three bids from the Premier League and the Nigeria international will resist any transfer out of the top flight despite continued interest from Dubai-based club Al Nasr.

He is ready to leave the Baggies but the Hawthorns hierarchy have turned down three bids of around £1.5m plus add-ons from English top-flight clubs including West

Albion

Ham and Fulham. Al Nasr have revived their interest in the 32-year-old and held fresh talks with the Baggies in recent days, although reports of an increased bid of £1.5m from the Middle East outfit are premature.

They previously had an £850,000 offer rejected out of hand.

However, Odemwingie will fight any attempt by the Baggies to offload him to a foreign club or a Championship side and is intent on staying in the English top flight.

That leaves Baggies bosses with four weeks to agree a deal with a Premier League club before the transfer window closes or be left with the prospect of the forward – who has been frozen out of the first team picture since the start of pre-season – remaining on their wage bill.

Odemwingie has been in open dispute with the Baggies since submitting a transfer request in January.

Albion have taken a strong squad to Cork on a pre-season tour, with defenders Jonas Olsson and

Gabriel Tamas the only notable absentees in the party that flew from Birmingham on Tuesday.

New signing Diego Lugano was among the travelling party, while winger Kemar Roofe is the only youngster in the squad.

Meanwhile, Albion remain in discussions over deal to bring Manchester City winger Scott Sinclair to The Hawthorns on loan.

The Baggies are optimistic a deal can be done before the start of the Premier League season but they believe negotiations still have some way to run.

Heathens progress to Knockout despite loss

DUDLEY ensured Knockout Cup progress at the weekend – and then claimed a stunning National League away win.

They lost 47-43 at Buxton in the cup, but their 16-point lead from the home leg was more than enough to put them in the semi-finals.

Then, despite injuries to Ashley Morris (thumb) and Gareth Isherwood (shoulder) they won 50-38 at Stoke on Sunday with Lewis Blackbird and Paul Starke outstanding.

At Buxton, Heathens led a narrow lead slip in the closing stages against a resilient home side, but team boss Will Pottinger said: “We’re still through on aggregate.

“It was a superb win at Stoke considering Ash and Gareth only scored one point apiece.” Greaves’ late flourish – twice beating Stoke’s Kyle Hughes – proved crucial.

Maximum

Both Lewis Blackbird and Paul Starke scored maximums to lead Heathens to all four points in their first away meeting of the National League campaign.

Pottinger said: “When Ash pulled out whilst we were three points down I would have taken a point in all honesty, so to come away with all four is a tremendous effort by everybody.

“Lewis and Paul led the team superbly, both going unbeaten, and young Nathan did a great job in his last few rides as well.

“To still get four points with effectively only five riders really is a great achievement, and it bodes

well for the rest of the season when we have a full team.”

Youngster Nathan Greaves was arguably the star of the show – recovering from a poor start to spark the Heathens revival in the closing stages.

His reserve partner Lee Geary also notched 5+1 with a determined display, whilst Dan Greenwood upped his game to score seven valuable points.

Carrying a 16-point lead to face Buxton, Heathens put in a battling away performance with Ashley Morris and Lewis Blackbird putting in excellent displays.

But the former-Cradley club let a narrow lead slip in the closing stages against a resilient Hitmen side.

Buxton: Charles Wright 13, Adam McKinn 10, Liam Carr 9+1, Ryan Blacklock 7+1, Tom Woolley 6+3, Matt Williamson 2+2. Dudley: Lewis Blackbird 13, Ashley Morris 10+1, Paul Starke 8, Gareth Isherwood 6+1, Dan Greenwood 4, Nathan Greaves 2, Lee Geary 0. Stoke: Luke Priest 10+1, Kyle Hughes 8, Lee Payne 7+2, Lee Smart 6+1, Benji Compton 4+2, Shaun Tedham 3+1. Dudley: Lewis Blackbird 15, Paul Starke 14+1, Nathan Greaves 7+2, Dan Greenwood 7, Lee Geary 5+1, Ashley Morris 1, Gareth Isherwood 1.

Baggies show six appeal in corker of a victory

Cork City 0 Albion 6

HE may be keeping schtum, but Nicolas Anelka is creating a hell of a noise.

And 10 days before the start of the Premier League season, excitement over the quiet Frenchman’s impact at Albion already has fans screaming from the rooftops.

Even after an Irish hat-trick took his pre-season tally to six goals in as many games, the Baggies’ star summer signing could not be persuaded to share his thoughts with the media.

Silence

Yet if the veteran forward can transfer even half of his pre-season form into the ‘serious stuff’ which starts on August 17, Baggies fans would forgive a vow of silence.

Anelka hasn’t talked publicly about his move to The Hawthorns since releasing some carefully-selected comments through the club on the day of his arrival.

But, so far at least, his performances have spoken for themselves. Three more goals in a rout of Cork City underlined the message he has sent out since returning to England; none of his class has deserted him.

Last night he added another feat to his CV as he managed to upstage Irish



Main men – Nicolas Anelka and Shane Long who played their part in the victory

hero Shane Long on his return to where it all began.

Long got himself on the scoresheet, too, however with a first ever goal at Turners Cross.

Midfielder Graham Dorrans maintained his own impressive pre-season form with two more goals to cap another lively performance.

Albion dominated from the off and it was little sur-

prise when they took the lead on 25 minutes with another excellent move down the right.

Dorrans eventually delivered a fine cross to the near post, where Anelka stooped to force the ball home with his body.

Just before the break, Anelka moved through midfield and squared for Dorrans, who bent a left-foot shot into the bottom

Football’s soul could be in peril says chief

PLAYERS’ leader Gordon Taylor says football is in danger of losing its soul.

The Professional Footballers Association chief executive wants modern football to show money is not its sole driving force.

As the new season gets underway following a summer of more international disappointment – England’s three teams at international tournaments all flopped – Taylor has raised concerns football may have its priorities wrong.

Taylor was speaking after visiting former player Gary Parkinson who is recovering from a stroke.

He claimed the ex-Middlesbrough man’s plight had made him think about what is important in football.

“He had a bad stroke, I saw the way his family had looked after him and the way football responded,” said Taylor.

“It is about that. I was making the point that I don’t want people thinking it’s all about money, where money is the only gauge of success.

“I think the game is in danger of losing its soul. I think about youngsters playing football, having the facilities, aspiring to be like heroes and we’re not working hard enough on that.”

With England’s Under-20 and Under-21 sides returning home with little to shout about, questions ask why the Three Lions continue to fail on the big stage.

Bosses are backing the Brummies

BIRMINGHAM speedway bosses are backing the title-chasing Brummies at least until the end of the season.

Chris Luty and Allan Phillips made the announcement after concerns were raised about the club’s finances.

Money will be made available through their Black Country Training Group business (BCTG).

The Brummies look certain to make the Elite League play-offs and have a good chance of winning the title this season.

The bosses are calling on the fans to get behind the team when they ride against Wolves at Perry Barr and play their part in keeping the club viable.



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Page 39



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Baggies show six
appeal in Ireland
Page 39



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League is all ready as votes are cast

THE West Midlands Regional League will kick off as planned on Saturday after issues surrounding its structure were resolved at a special meeting this week, writes **Peter Madeley**.

The premier division will run with an increased quota of 23 teams, meaning every week one side will be without a game.

Premier division outfit Wellington Amateurs, who finished 12th last season, had faced relegation due to fears their ground at School Grove did not meet league regulations.

But the Telford team received a reprieve after division one clubs voted unanimously to allow them to remain in the top flight.

Division one had been left with 14 teams as a result of Bilston Town's successful promotion appeal and the demise of AFC Wombourne United.

However, league officials opted to take a vote on the requests of Hereford Lads Club and Bartestree to be promoted from division two.

The two Herefordshire sides finished third and fourth respectively in the third tier last season, but club bosses voted 9 to 6 in favour of granting them promotion.

This gives division one the quota of 16 teams required for a legitimate step seven league.

Division two will kick off with just 14 teams.

As a result of the restructuring, league bosses have prepared revised fixture lists which were due to be issued to clubs today (Thursday).

WMRL chairman Wendy Jiggins said: "We are delighted to be up and running and ready for the new season."

Rider Racheal is hurt in fall

WOLVERHAMPTON jockey Racheal Kneller was recovering in hospital today after fracturing two vertebrae in her back in a fall.

The 25-year-old, from Lower Penn, was injured when the horse she was riding at the Lambourn yard of her boss, trainer Mark Usher, slipped.

"I've fractured two vertebrae and I'll probably be in hospital until the end of the week," said Kneller, who has ridden 36 career winners, eight of them this season.

"They have said they'll put me in a back brace soon," she added.

Mystery dismissal is a head-scratcher

Quorn 2 Tipton Town 1

A SECOND half Lewis Dodd goal earned Quorn a deserved victory over Tipton as the Midlands Football Alliance season got under way.

But the main talking point was the mysterious dismissal of Tipton captain Chris Waterhouse and Quorn's Liam Read on 41 minutes which left the players, dugouts and supporters of both sides scratching their heads in confusion.

At that stage, the game had been intriguingly poised. Quorn lived up to their billing as one of the

favourites for the MFA title for much of the first half and undoubtedly started more promisingly.

As early as the fourth minute, Lewis Dodd had fired a warning shot with a volley from 30 yards.

Just five minutes later the impressive work down the channels by Quorn saw Tipton keeper James Pemberton dash from his line to deny Read right on the edge of the penalty area.

It was Tipton who took the lead on 11 minutes with a goal against the run of play. Excellent work by

Tipton Town

Ben Hadley put in Marvin Nisbett who held off two players before firing past Matthew Nurse for a debut goal.

Quorn - who had the majority of the possession and always looked dangerous - equalised through Dominic Brennan, scrambling home in the six-yard box.

The double-dismissal as the game headed towards half time effectively dislocated the pattern

of the game. Tipton's body blow at losing their skipper was followed by the loss of vice-captain Lee Wherton with a suspected broken foot.

The second half saw Quorn cope far better with the enforced restructure of their side as they came out brightly and forced Pemberton into action.

Quorn scored the decisive goal when Ben Hadley carelessly gave away possession which enabled Dodd to fire high past Pemberton. Tipton had Pemberton to thank

for keeping them in the game as just minutes later he denied Brennan with a smart low save.

The home side continued to demonstrate their incisive attacking as Karl Munton's penetrative run with 12 minutes created a chance for Karl Whymark.

Tipton's best chance at snatching a draw came with seven minutes to go when substitute Danny Ashton was felled on the edge of the area and Hadley's resulting free-kick was fired just inches over Nurse's bar.

Richards off bench for winner

Halesowen Town 1 Stourbridge 0

STOURBRIDGE gained the pre-season bragging rights with a single-goal win over the Yeltz.

Halesowen made all the running in the first half of a feisty friendly.

But efforts by Tom Tonks, Chris Lait, Kristian Green and Ben Haseley failed to produce goals.

Stourbridge's only real chance of the first period fell for Leon Broadhurst to hit high over the bar, but at the start of the second half Jordan Fitzpatrick fired a low drive past the Yeltz post and a left-footer from Ben Billingham fell wide.

Glassboys' substitute Will Richards snatched a 70th-minute goal with a well-placed shot.

But the hosts continued to create chances with Haseley's 77th-minute snapshot forcing an initial fine reflex save from Dean Coleman before the keeper turned the rebound away from substitute Nigel Penney.

Heathens storm to top of table

HEATHENS stormed to the top of the National League table with arguably their best win of the season at the Isle of Wight.

Without Ashley Morris, Gareth Isherwood and Max Clegg through injury, Dudley pulled off a 52-37 victory against the Islanders to keep their perfect league record. Level after 10 heats, Heathens stormed clear to take all four points.

Isle of Wight 37: Darryl Ritchings 8+2, Ben Hopwood 8+1, Adam Ellis 8, Brendan Johnson 6, Danny Stoneman 3, Tom Perry 2+2, Chris Widman 2+1. Dudley 52: Paul Starke 16+1, Nathan Greaves 12+2, Steve Boxall 11, Lewis Blackbird 10+2, Danno Verge 2, Dan Greenwood 1+1, Gareth Isherwood R.R.

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NO GOALS BUT STILL HOPE FOR WOLVES

Morecambe 1 Wolves 0

TWO games, no goals but some hope. On a day when Wolves lost one of their greats, one of their youngest teams for many years gave a glimpse of a brighter future, despite defeat.

Like so many of their predecessors since Dave Wagstaffe graced Wembley in the 1974 final, they came unstuck in the League Cup against lower-league opposition.

Morecambe repeated their win over Wolves in the same competition six years ago, only this time it wasn't at Molineux and they didn't need extra-time.

But in a side of average age of 21 years, 332 days - just 68 days older than 'Waggy' when he made his Wolves debut - it's hard to criticise a team which in football terms is still learning to crawl.

Crying

Robbed of six players who started Saturday's 0-0 draw at Preston, Wolves took the field with a side which only a few months ago would have been an Under-21 team, with everyone under 22 bar keeper Carl Ikeme, 27, and 28-year-old Kevin Foley.

Defensively, they looked solid again, despite the loss of their two most experienced players in the back line, Richard Stearman and Sam Ricketts, through injury and illness respectively.

Ryan Williams' free-kick six minutes from time proved to be the difference in a pulsating tie as Matt Doherty hit the post in the first half and Leigh Griffiths

predecessors since Dave

Wolves

and Zeli Ismail were denied after the restart.

Griffiths was the biggest guilty party - he and Wolves will know the result would surely have been different had his header gone in instead of hitting the post from point-blank range.

In a similar pattern to Saturday, Wolves fared better in the first half before fading after the restart, although their two best chances came early in the second period.

Forde enjoyed a lively first half and had his first sight of goal on 22 minutes when he cut in from the left only to curl a shot off target.

Griffiths floated a free-kick over the angle after Kevin Doyle, who came on for Cassidy in the 57th minute, was tripped.

Doyle injected some much-needed experience and class with his hold-up play and reliable use of the ball.

But there was again a lack of cutting edge about Wolves which was ultimately ruthlessly punished.

The impetus seemed to be slipping away from Wolves.

Then came the vital goal, after Doherty tripped Fleming to earn a booking. Up stepped Williams to curl a beauty into the top corner.



Ryan Williams' stunning free-kick is on its way to the net despite the best efforts of Carl Ikeme



Jake Cassidy closes down Andrew Wright



Striker Leigh Griffiths on the attack for Wolves

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